

# THE TOWERS

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

March 2020

## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

## Dust, Oshes, and Grace

Genesis 3:14-21 ... <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return." <sup>20</sup> Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. <sup>21</sup> The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

For many of you, I enter into familiar territory as the season of

Lent begins. Maybe you are already choosing to fast from something in your life, maybe some luxury or diversion or other time taker, in order to try to be purposeful in drawing near to God. Others may be adding spiritual disciplines normal for the season, or possibly brand new.

For others, your faith background didn't highlight this season, or you

never heard it talked about at all. The Genesis passage above is a portion of the consequences suffered by humanity as a result of sin, and there we see words that are "traditional" for the beginning of Lent. "..for dust you are and to dust you will return." Adam and Eve were going to be faced with their own mortality, due to their disobedience to God. Another way to put it is, Death entered humanity's story. I have known pastors who have borrowed a casket for a special service to remind those who attend that they are bound for death. Why do we emphasize this fragile nature of our existence, especially during this season? There are multiple reasons, but one Scripture that comes to mind helps clarify it.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** <sup>8</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-- and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-- <sup>9</sup> not by works, so that no one can boast.

Sometimes God's grace is so amazing that we can, quite by accident, think it is about us. What I mean is, we can feel our actions were the main part of the salvific work; which can make us feel like we earned salvation. Scripture is clear time and time again that the only reason we can be offered

forgiveness/salvation/redemption; the only reason humanity has an option of regaining that eternal life is due to God's actions. If left to our own thoughts and actions, we will stand in the same condemnation as Adam and Eve. Speaking of which, even in the midst of the condemnation, we see God's Grace at work.

I included verse 21 for a specific reason, to say that as death came with humanity's sin, so also did death come as

recompense for sin. It would be many generations before the Law of Moses would prescribe animal sacrifices to pay the penalty for the sins of the people each year...but notice that in the Garden of Eden, God CLOTHED Adam and Eve with "garments of skin." It is still true today that sin has consequences impacting us years after we commit it, but also, just as in Genesis, God proactively is already

Genesis, God proactively is already providing for redemption. Instead being clothed in animal skins, we are clothed in Righteousness. Instead of a yearly sacrifice, there was one sacrifice for All. Obviously, we cannot take credit for that sacrifice. Humanity is as bent toward destroying ourselves as we always have been. We are flawed, and we are we are fragile. From dust we came, and to dust we shall return. Many Christian traditions will take the palm branches used in the previous year's Palm Sunday worship, and will burn those dried branches for the ashes

I invite you to set something aside this Lent. Maybe the thing set aside is a food, a luxury, or an activity. Maybe you set aside something as precious as time so you can invest in spiritual disciplines of prayer, study of Scripture, or even additional times of worship and praise. Allow this season of Lent to add to the daily reasons to thank God for this wondrous gift of grace through Jesus Christ. While contemplating my future ashes, I am,

administered on Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent.

In His Service and Yours.



# Board Meeting Highlights

## **Devotions**

Devotions were led by Patti Wion who shared how music inspires, enriches, and comforts us

## Mission and Ministry

Jim and Marilyn Mitchell reported on "Grandma's Kitchen" giving a 5 year summary. They served meals for 33 weeks in 2019 with a total meal profit in 2019 of \$8,463 and an average profit per week of \$256.45. Meals are taken to shut-ins. Those who can afford to pay do: while those who cannot are also fed. They continue to serve the community and provide a great outreach

## Pastor's Report

Average attendance for Dec. was 151. The average for the year 2019 was 153-with an even split between services. Norman was appreciated for organizing the Christmas carols for the combined Dec. 29 service JoAnn is completing year end conference and church financial reports IGNITE youth group is looking at core scriptures of the Christian faith. Joseph and Becky's work space was reworked for more efficiency. Family Fun Day is scheduled for Feb. 16 in conjunction with the Future Seekers Sunday school class Pasta luncheon/silent auction benefiting Bulldog Bags. Robbie's work on the Board of Ordained Ministry interviews is in January. District Superintendent approved the changes made to the compensation package after Charge Conference and adjustments to the Pension totals at the Conference office have been made. Robbie is meeting by phone with a clergy coach. A new member class and sermon series 2020 Vision series for February.

## **Meeting Attendees**

Janet Benkert, Patti Wion, Katie Poling, Carol Storer, Dick Martens, Jill Circle, Kim Dohrman, and Robbie Scott

Edition: January 2020

#### **Finance**

Dec. 2019 report was reviewed and accepted.

#### **Nominations**

SPRC Co-chair position remains vacant.

## **Board Study**

The board reviewed the mission statement "To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world" and also the vision statement scripture of John 17:20-21. The vehicle through which we are invited to live into this mission and vision is around the word ONE -Outreach, Nurture, and Engagement. The boundary principles will be studied next month.

## **Trustee Update**

David Jay's fire chief responsibilities conflict with board meetings. The board approved Wendy Heisy to be the trustees representative to the board on the days that David Jay can not attend. The new HVAC unit for the Activity center has been installed along with a new programmable thermostat. The other HVAC units also to be replaced some time this year. Quotes are coming in to fill and seal the parking lot cracks. Other projects planned for 2020 include removing plaster above the sanctuary entrance, repairing the tower ceilings, painting the garage, building a platform inside the North basement door, and replacing upstairs windows in the parsonage. Also, it is a recommendation that a "Safety and Security Team" be established. The discussion on such team will continue next month.

## Serving Schedule

Mar 01st - Altar flowers are available

9:00 Liturgist: Mike Circle Greeters: Wendy Heisey and Nancy Lightcap

Ushers: Lee & Becky Baker and Wayne & Susie Spitler Hospitality: Tim & Janet B.

Nursery: 10:15 Jill C. & Marijo S. /11:15 Kim D. & Wendy H.

11:15 Greeters: Ben G., Julia C., & Kathy Koeller Scripture Reader: Valerie M. Sound: Eric M. Ushers: Les, Sharon, & Megan Trittschuh and Ruth L. Media: Norman H.

Mar 08<sup>th</sup> - Altar flowers are in memory of Nora Raines' 3rd heavenly birthday on March 11th, from her family

9:00 Liturgist: Tim Benkert Greeters: Bill & Judy Brown

Ushers: Les Trittschuh and Phil & Karen McFadden Hospitality: Joe & Leah B.

Nursery: 10:15 Marcia C. & Lesli R. /11:15 Kathy K. and Cliff & Katie P.

11:15 Greeters: Lisa W. and Dick & Mary Ann M. Scripture Reader: Beth T.

Sound: Jill C. Ushers: Julia C., Ben G., and Sally & Paul M. Media: Norman H.

Mar 15<sup>th</sup> - Altar flowers are in honor of Larry Thoele's birthday from Beth

Greeters: Elaine Iddings and Cathy Brown 9:00 Liturgist: Wendy Heisey

Ushers: Jim Scammahorn & Dave Thompson Hospitality: Phil & Karen M.

Nursery: 10:15 Jill C. & Patti W. /11:15 Emily K. & Megan T.

11:15 Greeters: Kathy W. and Amanda B. Scripture Reader: Ben G.

Usher: Dejon D. Media:

Mar 22<sup>nd</sup> - Altar flowers are in celebration of Phil McFadden's birthday

9:00 Liturgist: Les Trittschuh Greeters: Carol Storer and Peggy Nihizer

Ushers: Cliff Poling & Joe Blackburn Hospitality: John & Carol C.

Nursery: 10:15 Eric & Johanna M. /11:15 Jennifer K. & Ben G.

11:15 Greeters: Sally & Paul M. and Marijo Schlecht Scripture Reader: Julia C. Sound: Norman H. Media: Valerie M.

Usher: Lisa W.

Mar 29<sup>th</sup> - Altar flowers are in celebration of Marilyn Mitchell's birthday from Jim

9:00 Liturgist: Valerie McKay Greeters: Sophia & Stella Blackburn **Ushers:** Steve Kraus & Kay Wagner Hospitality: Nancy S. & Kathy K.

Nursery: 10:15 Julia C. & Lesli R. /11:15 Courtney W. & Johanna M.

11:15 Greeters: Sally & Paul M. and Marijo Schlecht Scripture Reader: Tim B.

Usher: Lisa W.

## Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary March 2020

12<sup>th</sup> - Ivie Markley - Jerry Pinkerton

13<sup>th</sup> - Jim & Kathy Watkins 49 yrs 15<sup>th</sup> - Wilma Fryman 17<sup>th</sup> - Jack Everage - Pam Hitchcock

Hannah Scott

- Jim Mitchell

Cliff & Katie Poling 42yrs 18<sup>th</sup> - Evan Beard

5<sup>th</sup> - Linda Seman Nan Guthrie 6<sup>th</sup> - Jim Scammahorn Larry Thoele

Jim Scammahorn Alex Morrow 19<sup>th</sup> - Matthew Burns 7<sup>th</sup> - $10^{th}$  - Lee Baker 20<sup>th</sup> - Phil McFadden

Jerry Richards Jim & Janet Balsbaugh 21 vrs

11<sup>th</sup> - Mike & Denise Sanderson 31yrs

23<sup>rd</sup> - Winston Klepinger

24<sup>th</sup> - Dan & Erin Studebaker 19yrs

Sound: Norman H.

Sound: Norman H.

Media: Valerie M.

25<sup>th</sup> - Eric Morrow

26<sup>th</sup> - Bill & Judy Brown 49yrs Eames Circle

28<sup>th</sup> - Miriam Miller Marilyn Mitchell

29<sup>th</sup> - Robert Cox

Marilyn Stickney

The church calendar can be view on our website at HoffmanUMC.org

Hoffman United Methodist Church, Holidays in United States

Mar 2020 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Non	Тие	Wed	Thu	1.1	Sat
£	2	3	4	5	9	[7]
Communion	6pm - Girl Scouts - B	Super Tuesday	9am - Women's	6pm - Holy Spirit		9am - private party
9am - Worship		11am - Women's	7 pm - Chancel Choir	7 pm - Weaving Class		12pm - Y. Spirits - B
10:15am - S School		6:30pm - Bell Choir		7:30pm - Praise	microscomité de la companya della companya della companya de la companya della co	***************************************
11:15am - Worship		7pm - Trustee Mtg				
6:30pm - Ignite						,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
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9am - Worship	7 p m - Visitation	6:30pm - Men's	7pm - Chancel Choir	7pm-VBS Meeting-		ete acrosore viv
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10:15am - S School		6:30pm - Bell Choir	7 pm - Chancel Choir	6pm - Holy Spirit		
11:15am - Worship		6:30pm - Men's		6:30pm - Board Mtg		got generalis
6:30pm - Ignite				7:30pm - Praise		necest philosoph
22	23	24	25	26	22	28
9am - Worship	6pm - Girl Scouts - B	6:30pm - Bell Choir	9am-Women's	Mail Towers	Setup A.C.	3pm - Food Tasting
10:15am - S School			5pm - Grandma's	6pm - Holy Spirit	ageccush, do de or of the control of	
11:15am - Worship			7 pm - Chancel Choir	6:30pm - 4-H -M.P.		
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10:15am - S School			7pm - Chancel Choir	7:30pm - Praise		6pm - Y. Spirits A.C.
11:15am - Worship						
6:30pm - Ignite						

## People to remember in prayer:

At Home: Phil Blue, Nan Guthrie, Valaria Harshbarger, Charlotte Hepfer, Cindy Johnston,

Helen Keller, Kathy Kinsey, Terry & Wendy Long, Mary Maess, Dick & Eugenie Markley,

Miriam Miller, Shirley Richhart, and Monica Winemiller

At Centers:

Eldon Hoke, 1010 Taywood Rd, Room 30, Englewood OH 45322 John Jackson, 46 Lavender Pl, Tipp City OH 45371 Joetta Perry, Storypoint Troy, 1840 Towne Park Drive Rm 17, Troy, OH 45373

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

## THANK YOU AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and concerns during my recent battle with cancer. Praise God for his blessings and grace in fighting this battle. Richard Smith

I greatly appreciate your thoughts and prayers throughout my recent procedure and awaiting the results. Praise be to God, the results came back normal! Thank you all so much, Erin Studebaker

I appreciate the many prayers, phone calls and all your cards. Thank you all so very much! You're a blessing to me! Paul Miller, Sr.

I would like to thank everyone for the many cards, texts, phone calls, and gifts that I received for my 83rd birthday. It was a great day. Nancy Studebaker

Thank You – all of you – who sent cards, prayers, and best wishes while I was incapacitated. I am now home and working on regaining my strength. Again, thank you, you are special people!! Shirley Garreth

Greeters and ushers needed for each service. Please contact Sharon Trittschuh for greeters and Les for ushers (937)478-8093.

> **Emmaus Woman's Share Group** March 3rd at 11 a.m. in Multi-Purpose Room

Women's "The Holy Spirit and You" class offered on Thursdays March  $5^{th}$  – April  $9^{th}$  6:00 – 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. No study workbooks, bring a notebook, pencil and Bible. A sign-up sheet is on the table outside the church office. there are a couple spots open. Questions? call Mary Ann Martens (937)719-3043

Daylight Savings Time March 8th Remember to spring your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Sat., March 7th.

International Food Tasting March 28th Saturday from 3 to 5pm in Activity Center. Germany, Honduras, New Zealand, Mexico, Scotland, VietNam, Portugal, & Philippines will be represented. Bring the community, all are invited!

COME FOR FUN FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

Sponsored by United Methodist Women Donations accepted. Contact Katle Poling (937)266-3519

Grandma's Kitchen Volunteers Needed! Volunteers are needed on Tuesday morning or on Wednesday morning, Wednesday afternoon or Wednesday evening. No experience necessary—we will train for any and all jobs. Please understand that your volunteer work not only feeds our in-house diners but also provides free meals for approximately 50 local families who are in need due to health or financial stress. All volunteers receive a free Grandma's Kitchen meal. Please sign the clipboard in the kitchen or call Marilyn Mitchell, 947-1831.

#### Theda's Thoughts

Submitted by Theda Klepinger

As we near the change of seasons from Winter to Spring we are aware that life consists of many changes. Some changes are pleasant to experience, others are not. Improvements in the fields of medicine and technology are pleasant experiences. When a loved one dies the survivor's lives may not be pleasant. God is always with us and He grants us grace in all life's changes We praise Him for His great faithfulness.

Psalm 117:2 .....and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.

## GRANDMA'S KITCHEN March 25/April 1 2020 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 serving you again.

March 25th Chicken & noodles

Mashed Potatoes

Green Beans

Fruit Jello

Ice Cream Sundae

April 1st

Meat Loaf

Mashed Potatoes

Peas

Angelic Pineapple Cake

We will be closed on April 8th during Easter week.

Menu items are subject to change

#### **Grandma's Kitchen Reopens**

Grandma's Kitchen will be opening on Wednesday, March 25. 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 meals for the public for almost 20 years. 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 97. We average 225 meals per week; usually 100 guests dine-in and the remainder are carry-out or delivery.

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, Bulldog Bags and the Heifer Project. We provide approximately 70 free meals per week to local families in need and also donate the leftover food from each meal to the Franklin House (family abuse shelter) in Troy. Your purchased meals make the mission aspect of Grandma's Kitchen possible. Some facts from last year:

Open 33 weeks
7468 meals served
66 different volunteers
2702 volunteer hours
\$1000 donated to various food ministries
Approximately \$4000 worth of food donations to the Franklin House

Please join us on March 25 as we begin another year of Grandma's Kitchen.

## Additional Opportunities

## SAFETY and SECURITY TEAM Invitation

My name is David Jay. I am a member of the Trustees, as well as a Church Board member. I have been asked to form a Safety and Security Team for Hoffman. The primary purpose of this team is to be able to react to an emergency in the church and know where to go for necessary resources. The team will review a draft Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity Plan document that I got from a seminar I attended last year and provide recommendations to the church board for policy approval. The Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity Plan covers everything from weather emergencies, flood, power outage, fights, injuries, and pretty much anything else that may happen in the church. It is a resource that tells where the electric panels are, where the sump pumps are, where to assemble in case of an evacuation, important phone numbers, etc.

I am looking for anyone that is willing to help in an emergency. Send your Name, address, email, phone number, cell phone, and any current certifications (CPR, AED, etc.) to me at <u>DJ4one@aol.com</u>. Please let me know if you have any questions.

#### 2020 PICTURE DIRECTORY

We are long overdue for an updated picture directory. We can use help in multiple areas, including persons willing to facilitate filling out the schedules (mostly this will be done on Sunday). Portraits will be scheduled on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> (Friday and Saturday). Please let Pastor Robbie know if you can help with preparations for our next picture directory, whether in design or in logistics.

## 2020 MISSION TRIP

Pastor Robbie is again leading our Summer Mission Trip this year, and we are returning to Zanesville. We really left a good impression with the church we stayed at, and the ministries and people we served, so we are returning. The dates are from Sunday afternoon, June 21 to Friday afternoon, June 26th. We anticipate serving again in multiple areas of ministry. Please let Pastor Robbie know if interested.

"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." Acts 16:31



Thank you so much to everyone who came to the pasta luncheon, donated items for the silent auction or made all of the food! It was a lot of fun and a huge success for Bulldog Bags. We were able to raise \$897 for Bulldog Bags.

THANK YOU!!!

## VBS Organizational Meeting-March 12, 2020 7pm

This meeting is for anyone who would like to help during the week of VBS: July 19- July 23

We are currently looking for someone who would like to co-teach a class during second service for the elementary aged children who attend the service. Please talk to Becky for more information if you are interested.

Sunday School Hour 10:15-11:10

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

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

## Sunday Night Help Needed

6:30-8:30

Commitment would be for 1 month at a time, Responsibilities: help oversee youth. No planning involved,

#### ianite

Grades 6-12 Sundays 6:30-8:30 pm

#### Ignite gear available

T-shirts

Bags

Information and Post cards

Youth Director: Joseph Knostman josephknostman@hoffmanumc.org 937-573-7212

## Ignite Focusing on the Word

The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord endures forever. And this is the word that was preached to you.

Peter 1:24-25

Hello Church! Ignite is continuing to put its focus on studying the word of God. We wrapped up the "Essential Bible Passages" series by walking through the Roman's Road and sharing the pathway to salvation.

Ignite could really use some volunteers for Sunday nights. There would be NO prep time...! just need one more adult to be there to hang out with the youth and help me monitor everything. Don't know if you want to get on a regular rotation?...then just try it out once. My goal is to give current volunteers a break and rotate volunteers in the future.

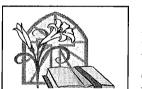
In February, we had a successful trip to Get Air with the Young Spirits. Thanks for all of your support!



#### The Voice of the Martyrs by Marijo Schlecht

Can it be March already? This month I thought I would bring you some good news stories on The Voice of the Martyrs. Let's begin is Sudan, where for thirty years there has been the persecution of Christians under former President Omar al -Bashir's regime. This has finally come to an end. Christians now have a glimmer of hope. With the removal of this leader who attempted to exterminate Christians, our brothers and sisters are seeing some of their freedoms retuning. One such celebration is the return of Christmas as a National Holiday. This would have been unthinkable in previous years. Praise God, but we still need to pray for their safety as they attempt to share the Gospel and evangelize. The next report is on a young man from the Philippines. At age twenty one his life consisted of selling drugs, as he was a major drug dealer. One day as the police chased him he decided to hide in a bible school. He met a pastor who gave him a bible just before the police took him to jail. The young man read his bible and he confessed Jesus as his Lord and savior. God is now using him is the Philippines and in an Islamic school in Indonesia. His witness does come without danger, as he has been almost attacked twice, but he is willing to risk his life for the Lords calling. If you would like to hear more stories you can listen! Go to WWW.vomradio.net. Just a side note, there are thousands of people in other counties coming to know Jesus as Lord and savior. Places like Syria, Algeria, Pakistan, Iran, and many more. In most of these countries there are very harsh consequences so please keep our brothers and sisters in your prayers.

Until he comes, Marijo Schlecht



#### **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 Spring Mums of assorted colors 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 15th.

Your flowers may be picked up after the second service on Easter Sunday. (Substitutions may be necessary.)

ity Total Price

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

201 S MainStreet West Milton OH 45383 open door

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