

hoffman
united methodist church

THE TOWERS

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

April 2020

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Light Wins

Last month, I wrote that we "enter into familiar territory as the season of Lent begins." Wow. Remember way back when we thought we could choose what we were "giving up" for Lent? Doesn't that seem like an eternity ago now?

Some of you are reading this as ones who are enjoying a slowing down of life, while others have felt their lives grow more hectic, with more daily challenges either due to workload or children being home all day. May God bless you and yours as we adapt to this new reality.

During this season of "social distancing" we are streaming live for worship each Sunday on the Hoffman United Methodist Church Facebook page. In addition, we are also recording DVDs of the traditional service, if there are those who are not internet

proficient. Unless something radically changes, this is our reality through Easter (Bishop Palmer has asked UM Congregations to suspend live worship through Easter).

If you are like me, many daily decisions are now focussed around what trips in our lives are truly "necessary." As we journey through this season when we may be craving something "normal," I offer this familiar Scripture:

Psalm 23:1-6 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Too often associated with funerals, this is a Psalm of comfort for for any trial God's people go through. Whether we like to admit it or not, we are like sheep, and we need the Good Shepherd. This Psalm has come to mind recently as so many of

our plans and expectations have been upended. There are times when we are made to rest, even when we would prefer not to. Sometimes we are guided away from places we want to go, but for our safety, we are forbidden. Though luxuries may be in short supply, the reality for so many of us is that we do have what we need, even if not what we want. Sometimes doing the right thing is enough in its own merit, even if

economic harm is an unfortunate side effect. We are often reminded that both the challenges and the blessings are shared both by our friends and by our enemies.

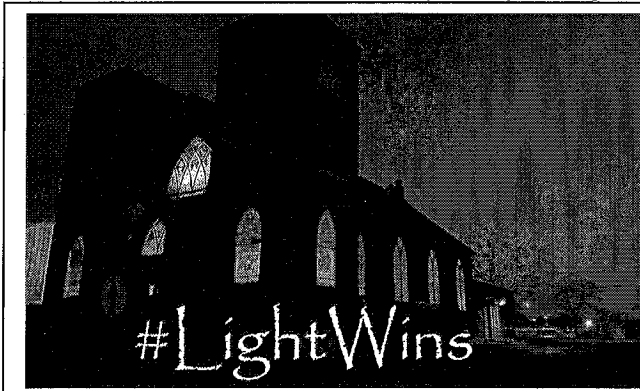
Through all these things our faith challenges us not to fear death, for whether we live or we die, God is with us in that journey, and Jesus the Christ is preparing a home for us when that day comes.

As we face the reality that we will likely not worship together for Easter, more than ever we need to be reminded that God's people have throughout human history experienced famine, wars, droughts, and plagues. There has never been a promise not to experience these things during this part of our journey, but there has been a promise that we do not journey alone. We are together with our Lord, and together with the body of Christ in this current crisis.

Thank you for the various ways you are supporting Hoffman, through prayers, finances, and other means as we navigate this strange time. I invite you to continue to pray for all those who are impacted through the spread of this virus, and I also ask we pray against this virus, to stop its spread and its expected impact. As we pray, as we protect our family and loved ones, even with our distance, we are shining the light of Christ through our actions. And remember what happens whenever Light battles Darkness. **#LightWins...Every time.**

While shining church lights at night for hope, I am,

In His Service and Yours,



Board Meeting Highlights

Meeting Attendees

Dick Martens, Katie Poling, David Jay, Julia Circle, Jill Circle, John Ankerman, Kim Dohrman, Patti Wion, Janet Benkert, and Pastor Robbie Scott

Mission and Ministry

Shared by Jill Circle. Who attended a district training for Lay Leaders and attended a session called "secret worshipper." Some suggestions for our own church.

Keeping website updated with GPS link to our location, descriptions of services and staff pictures. Introductions of people participating in worship and making announcements.

Formalized child check-in procedure. Update Welcome Center and visitor gift. Re-evaluate our "greet" time during service. Avoid insider language and unspoken rituals.

Pastor's Report

Average attendance for November was 149. Bulldogs Bags is now a 501c3. Further discussion needed about whether Hoffman mission budget could cover administrative costs of Bulldog Bags, so donors' money goes only towards mission.

Membership class for Feb 29

Mission Trip to Zanesville is planned for June 21-26. Pastor Robbie provided information comparing the most "known" plans for separation pending General Conference outcome. Directory pictures are planned for Palm Sunday weekend. Johanna Morrow will help with design elements of the directory, but more volunteers are needed. Next Worship series for Lent will be "a perfect love", a series around one of John Welsey's sermons, "A Plain Account of Christian Perfection". Robbie is updating to only one WiFi access for all Hoffman.

Finance

The finance report for January was reviewed. John reviewed the finance report as well as the Fund Balance Report.

Nominations

SPRC Co Chair is vacant - looking for a 1st service male to balance board.

Staff Parish Relations

The employee handbook was updated .

Board Study

The board reviewed the guiding principle including "Boundary Principles". Including restrictions of finances and budgets. Discussed importance of communication between Pastor Robbie and the board. *May need to return to discussion of a "consultant". There was discussion of significant attention will be given to the prayer and study of scripture as a group. The board asked Pastor Robbie to reflect on "additional duties" he takes on and how we can support him.

Trustee Update

2020 projects include the following: replace remaining activity center HVAC units, seal the parking lot, paint the garage, build a step inside North basement door. David and Phil met with another stained glass window company out of Indianapolis and are waiting for a quote. Discussed storing Young Spirit risers in the garage.

Non-Agenda Items

Safety and Security Committee was formed. David Jay will seek out 12-15 volunteers for the committee. Initial task to review/approve the "Safety and Security" reference guide and establish policies, eg presence at events such as VBS, emergency preparedness.

Devotions

Devotions were led by Katie on Isaiah 6:8, "Here I am, send me"

Bulldog Bags

Bulldog Bags started the year with 270 children, but then preK was added which brings the need to \$56,000 for the year.

People to remember in prayer:



Hoffman Sympathies to the family of Anna Hayes, Marcia Cox's mother, as she passed away on Mar 1, 2020
to the family of Loel Wright, Jim's brother, as he passed away on March 18, 2020

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: 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

Congratulations a Baby Boy!

Ezekiel Louis Moran arrived on March 11, 2020
Weighing 8 lbs. 13 ozs. and 20 1/2"

Parents are Chris and Jenna Siblings are Lilly and Lincoln

Dear Hoffman Church, Thank you for all of your prayers.
Your love and kindness is so very much appreciated!

God bless and with love,
Janet Balsbaugh

Palm Sunday and Easter Services

Join us live on our "Hoffman United Methodist Church"
Facebook Page; as we celebrate together
while staying safely our homes.

Young Spirits Performance on April 4th & 5th
have been cancelled

Community Good Friday Service on April 10th
has been cancelled

Pictorial directory photos have been postponed until
October 23rd and 24th.

United Methodist Women's Meeting

April 23rd at 7 p.m.

All ladies of Hoffman UMC are invited to the join us as we
discuss and plan upcoming events. For more information
contact Karen McFadden 937-676-2465.

Mother/Daughter/Granddaughter Luncheon

May 3rd at 12:30 p.m. in the Activity Center

The catered meal is provided by the United Methodist
Women. Please join us for this fun afternoon. Please
sign up at the information table outside the office.

Theda's Thoughts

Submitted by Theda Klepinger

As the month of April approaches our thoughts turn to Easter. Day by day Jesus lived to complete his mission here on earth, He spoke these words about himself: John 8:12 "I am the light of the world, Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. John 14:6 I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. Matt. 28: 18-20 All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me Therefore go and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always to the end of the age.

Serving Schedule

Apr 05th services will be live on our "Hoffman United Methodist Church" Facebook Page

Apr 12th services will be live on our "Hoffman United Methodist Church" Facebook Page

Apr 19th – Altar flowers are in celebration of Nate & Brittany Ankerman's birthdays from John & Anita

9:00 Liturgist: Les Trittschuh

Greeters: Elaine Iddings and Cathy Brown

Ushers: Jim Scammahorn & Dave Thompson

Hospitality: Chris & Linda L.

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

11:15 Greeters: Kathy W. and Amanda B.

Scripture Reader: Valerie M.

Sound: Norman H.

Usher: Dejon D.

Media:

Apr 26th – Altar flowers are in celebration of Les & Sharon Trittschuh's 51st anniversary

9:00 Liturgist: Tim Benkert **Greeters:** Carol Storer and Peggy Nihizer

Ushers: Cliff Poling & Joe Blackburn

Hospitality: Tom & Janet W.

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

11:15 Greeters: Sally & Paul M. and Marijo Schlecht **Scripture Reader:** Ben G.

Sound: Norman H.

Usher: Lisa W.

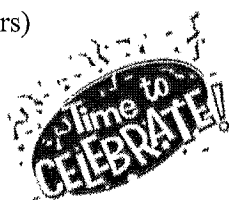
Media: Valerie M.



Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

April 2020

- 4th - Sharon Trittschuh
- Jerry & Libby Richards (39 yrs)
- 5th - Ian Bryson
- 6th - Sherynne King
- Lesli Raines
- 8th - Sophia Blackburn
- 9th - Becky Baker
- 12th - Valaria Harshbarger
- 13th - Shane Todd
- 14th - Jim & Audrey Scammahorn (63 yrs)
- 15th - Tom Kinsey
- Cindy Johnston



- 16th - Libby Richards
- 17th - Terry & Charlene Beetley (55 yrs)
- Darin & Patti Wion (27 yrs)
- 19th - Dixie Porter
- 21st - Marilyn Yount
- 22nd - Nate Ankerman
- Barb Frazier
- Jennifer Knostman
- Tom Weeks
- 24th - Cooper Dohrman
- 26th - Marijo Schlecht
- Lester & Sharon Trittschuh (51 yrs)
- 28th - Michael Barnes

Hoffman United Methodist Church, Holidays in United States

Apr 2020 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
Palm Sunday	6	7	8	9	10 Good Friday	11
12 Easter Sunday	13 6pm - Girl Scouts - B	14 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Men's	15 6:30pm - Women's 7pm - Chancel Choir	16 6:30pm - Board Mtg 7:30pm - Praise	17	18
19 9am - Worship 10:15am - S School 11:15am - Worship 6:30pm - Ignite	20 6pm - Girl Scouts - B	21 6:30pm - Bell Choir 6:30pm - Men's	22 6:30pm - Women's 7pm - Chancel Choir	23 Towers' Deadline 6:30pm - 4-H - B 7pm - U M Women's 7:30pm - Praise	24	25
26 9am - Worship 10:15am - S School 11:15am - Worship 6:30pm - Ignite	27 6pm - Girl Scouts - B	28 6:30pm - Bell Choir	29 6:30pm - Women's 7pm - Chancel Choir	30 Mail Towers 7:30pm - Praise	1	2 12pm - Private Party

Please note: Services, studies, practices, and meetings scheduled after Easter may be cancelled or re-scheduled or live streamed based on the current health restrictions and recommendations.

X

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201 S Main Street
West Milton OH 45383

X

the **open door**
come as you are

Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
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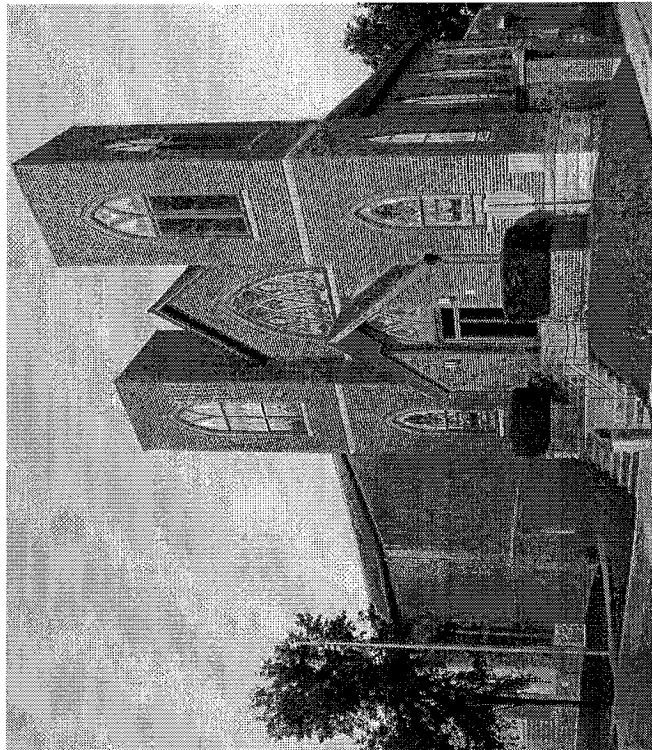
Return Service Requested

Place Label Here

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T O W E R S
T H E R S

April
2020



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