



THE TOWERS

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

January 2021

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

2021?



Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

For the video devotion shared for our Charge Conference this year, Bishop Palmer started the video while removing his mask, expressing that he was thinking what many of us may be thinking, "boy, I cannot wait until we are done with these." COVID has inconvenienced us, challenged us, angered us, even scared us throughout 2020. In many ways we may have looked forward to being "done" with 2020.

A few weeks ago in a sermon I tried to challenge us that there is no "throwaway" year. I had felt I experienced a year like that in 2008. In 2008 my life included disruption, and moving, heartache and heartbreak, and grief. Even though I "felt" like I did not accomplish anything for the congregation I was serving, I have multiple times thought back on that year and realized that despite everything else, good things were happening, too. Blessings were falling upon my family, and upon the church family, whether my eyes could "see" them at the time or not.

As 2020 comes to an end, I know there are several wanting to say "good riddance," but in those moments I'm sure we realize the year itself had nothing to do with any of the challenges we faced. I pray that we will be able to look back and see where God blessed us in the midst of a time of great darkness.

By the time you read this, you may have already heard me speak of the Christmas star, and how it shone light to guide the way for those who needed direction. We have just passed the longest night of 2020...from now on through Spring the days grow longer each and every time the sun rises.

I cannot promise 2021 will spare us heartache like we have endured in 2020, but the One whose birth we celebrate is still offering hope for all our tomorrows, whose light still shines today. Christ's light shining through our actions now just might be the light that helps lead someone else to the manger. It

may even lead someone to the cross, for the only reason we take time to remember the manger is because of the cross.

As I speak of taking time for important things, I want to share something about time you have invested.

I have never been good at keeping up with cards for Christmas, Birthdays, or other occasions. I don't even give them to my wife or kids (oh yeah, I'm a keeper). I have, however, long had great admiration for those who have that marvelous gift of personal contact through cards and notes, so when I receive those investments of time, I truly do appreciate them, even if I do not send any acknowledgement in return. I normally wait until there is a "lull" of sorts, and then enjoy cards in one sitting. Can I admit to you that there is a lovely



stack of cards at the parsonage I'm pretty certain were for our anniversary a month ago are still unopened? It isn't that I don't want them or enjoy them, I just don't want to rip them open on my way to something else, and many of you have seen what happens when I lay my sermon down in those moments... Bridget doesn't touch them until we're able to enjoy them together, and so the stack remains at this writing....but they will be opened, they will be read, and they will be enjoyed.

I sincerely want thank you for your thoughtfulness expressed in so many ways. It has been the longest, darkest season that I have been through in a long time. As I wait for the sun to rise on this deep dark valley, please be aware that I have been able to press on in part because of many moments of encouragement shared, and of prayers lifted on my behalf, as this Hoffman family has been letting Christ's light shine through your actions to add some light to others' lives, and to my life. I appreciate it more than words can express. I pray that 2021 brings Health, Joy, Peace, and Hope for you and yours, and that we can celebrate how the light of Christ still has been winning over darkness...all this time. While watching Light Win, I am, In His Service and yours,



Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Devotions were offered by Bishop Palmer as part of the Charge conference following the board meeting. The meeting was opened in prayer by Pastor Robbie.

Meeting Attendees

Dick Martens, Katie Poling, Carol Storer, Julia Circle, Jill Circle, John Ankerman, Patti Wion (zoom), Janet Benkert (zoom), Dan Studebaker (zoom) and Pastor Robbie Scott.

Pastor's Report

The Pastor's report was given for October. Average attendance for 9 am: 22 (in person) and 32.5 (online); 11:15 am: 21.5 (in person) and 19.25 (online). JoAnn has completed the hard work in preparation for the Charge Conference. Norman continues to work regularly with Robbie on options for music. Becky assisted in preparation for Trunk-or-Treat and hosted a successful pumpkin carving family event. Joseph hosted successful small group meetings alternating high school and middle school youth; these are currently suspended due to increasing community COVID numbers. The Veterans service was successfully hosted in the Activity Center. Makeup day for Directory pictures is scheduled for December 1. Pastor Robbie and Darin Wion have continued work to try to improve experience online and for those receiving DVDs. For Advent, Pastor Robbie will be using a Skit Guys series. Pastor Robbie has asked a few households to film lighting advent candles.

Finance

The finance report for October was reviewed and accepted. We are not changing banks at the present time.

Staff Parish Relations

Parsonage inspection was completed with all being in order. No Christmas party or meal will be hosted. Carol gave Robbie his evaluation after compiling board comments.

Trustee Update

There was plumbing work required at the parsonage due to a second leak in the concrete pad. A new reroute for water was approved by the trustees. Hail guards were installed on two new AC units. Workday is scheduled to clean the roof and drain basins. Collections have begun for the stained glass window restoration project.

Charge Conference Highlights

Presiding Elder: Rev. Ferguson. Tina Mathews approved to continue as a Lay Servant. 2021 Breakthrough Goals were approved as follows:

- Passionate Worship 100 (70 online)
- Radical Hospitality 10 professions of faith, 7 baptisms
- Intentional Faith Dev. 13 small groups, 70 avg. # of people, 50% of weekly worship
- Risk taking Service 1000 people engaged in mission/outreach
- Extravagant generosity \$4850 avg. giving/wk. 100% apportionment, \$70,000 additional

Membership Report, 2021 Budget, Pastoral Compensation Package, Safe Sanctuary Report and Required Annual Reports including parsonage report, trustees legal and property report were approved.

While COVID-19 numbers in Miami County continue to grow, and include Hoffman households, we are continuing to host in person worship in addition to the Facebook live streaming. At current numbers we have room for several more to safely gather. Of course we implore that all who come be healthy and use best practices of distance and masks. The chart below records both those in physical and confirmed online attendance. -rs

Date	11/22/20	11/29/20	12/6/20	12/13/20
General Offering	3300.00	4345.00	4255.00	5650.00
Weekly Budget Need	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00
Mission Offering	130.00	70.00	145.00	475.00
Maintenance Fund	130.00	550.00	260.00	200.00
Building Fund & Memorials	190.00	125.00	255.00	523.00
Online & Physical Attendance				
9 a.m. Service at church	13	20	15	19
* Remote viewing	51	48	50	42
11:15 a.m. Service at church	12	18	23	20
* Remote viewing	34	28	37	32
Total Attendance	110	114	125	113

* 'remote viewing' is only recorded for those signing in during the live broadcast, and does not include those who watch from the links after the live broadcast is over. This estimate does not include all who are watching.

**Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary
January 2021**

2nd Andrew Circle
 5th Bob & Nancy Mills (53 yrs)
 6th Jim Watkins
 9th Peggy Nihizer
 12th Elaine Iddings
 13th David Mitchell
 Janice Turner
 Kay Wagner
 14th Nancy Curry
 Patti Wion
 15th Tom & Nancy Wolf (56 yrs)
 18th Ben Garrett
 19th Greg Raines



21st Paul Miller, Sr.
 Bob Mills
 Shawn & Shari Williams (7 yrs)
 22nd Courtney Wion
 23rd John Carter
 Theda Klepinger
 Audrey Scammahorn
 Bridget Scott
 24th Cheyenne Barnes
 25th Matt Ankerman
 27th Emma Knostman
 28th Tom & Kathy Kinsey (37 yrs)
 29th Denise Sanderson
 31st Lauren Everage

The 2021 flower calendar is on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary. Remember to sign up for your special Sundays. The cost is \$20 per Sunday.

People to remember in prayer:



Hoffman Sympathies to:

the family of Rhonda Nelson, Becky Baker's daughter-in-law as she passed away on November 25, 2020
the family of Anita McCray as she passed away on November 30, 2020

At Home: Nancy Allen, Phil Blue, Nan Guthrie, Valaria Harshbarger, Helen Keller, Kathy Kinsey, Terry & Wendy Long, Mary Maess, Dick & Eugenie Markley, Miriam Miller, and Monica Winemiller

At Centers

Joetta Perry, Storypoint Troy, 1840 Towne Park Drive, Rm 17, Troy, OH 45373

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 27th Service Times

9 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

Women's Holy Spirit Class

Lovely women of Hoffman UMC, we are going to resume the Holy Spirit Class as we can safely do so. We will update you again in the Spring. Your Sister In Christ, Mary Ann



WOW you are all so awesome! Thanks Hoffman family and friends for continuing to be so wonderful and kind; your generosity and support continues to amaze and bless me. May your 2021 be filled with blessings. JoAnn

Emmaus Walks

2021 Walks are at Sulphur Grove UMC:

Men's Walk #68 June 10-13, 2021

Women's Walk #108 July 15-18, 2021

If you interested in going on an Emmaus walk or would like more information contact Pastor Robbie



Stained Glass Window Restoration Project

Amount Received: \$ 7,315

Total Project Goal : \$ 109,430

Thank You!

Thank you for all the prayers, cards, and calls; I appreciate your thoughtfulness. I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! *Sherynne King*

Altar Flowers

January 3rd in memory of Jean Brown, from Fran & Lee

January 10th available

January 17th available

January 24th in celebration of Matt & Melissa Ankerman's birthdays from John & Anita

January 31st available



33rd Annual Hoffman's United Methodist Men's Whole Hog Sausage Sale

The Methodist Men's 33rd Annual Whole Hog Sausage Sale for 2021 is about to begin. The sausage is \$3.50 per tube (approximately one pound packages). We are offering Mild Spice or Plain sausage. We are also offering the Mild Spice in two pound packages of breakfast links at \$7.00 per package. Remember! This is delicious whole hog sausage make room in your freezer and get ready to enjoy this good sausage while helping the United Methodist Men with this major fund raising project. The proceeds will benefit local mission projects to glorify God. Don't forget we will deliver to you. Please contact any Methodist Men or the Church Office to place your order. The LAST DAY to order will be Monday January 26th, so order yours TODAY. Delivery will begin on Wednesday February 3, 2021. If you have any questions please call John Ankerman at (937)478 2078 or Les Trittschuh at (937)698 5161. Since this is a strange year with COVID and the resulting reduced in person attendance at church please call one of the following with your orders before January 26th.

David H. 937 545 9507
Chris L. 937 603 8432
Phil M. 937 573 7718
John A. 937 478 2078
Les T. 937 478 8093

United Methodist Men's Glazed Ham Loaf

4 Eggs, slightly beaten
1 T Grated Onion
1 can Tomato Soup
2 lbs Ground Lean Pork Sausage
(Methodist Men's Sausage)
2 C Cracker Crumbs
1 lbs Ground Cured Ham

GLAZE

½ C Brown Sugar
1 T Prepared Mustard

Combine eggs, onion, and soup, mix well.
Add meats and cracker crumbs, mold into
2 loaves. The last half hour glaze with
brown sugar and mustard mixture.
Bake at 275-300 degrees for 2 hours.
Makes 8 servings.

Egg Sausage Casserole (from Kathy Hayes):

This is the recipe that we use for
Easter Sunrise Breakfast.

2 lbs (makes 5 cups cooked browned) sausage (could do
1 lb each of sage or unseasoned) cooked and crumbled.
9 eggs, beaten
9 white bread slices, torn into small pieces.
3 cups milk
3 cups shredded cheddar cheese
2 tablespoons yellow mustard
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon pepper

Mix well with spoon. Pour batter in the pan (9x13 inch
pan).
Refrigerate 8 hours (or overnight) for baking. Uncover for
the baking. Bake 45-60 min. Oven 350 degrees

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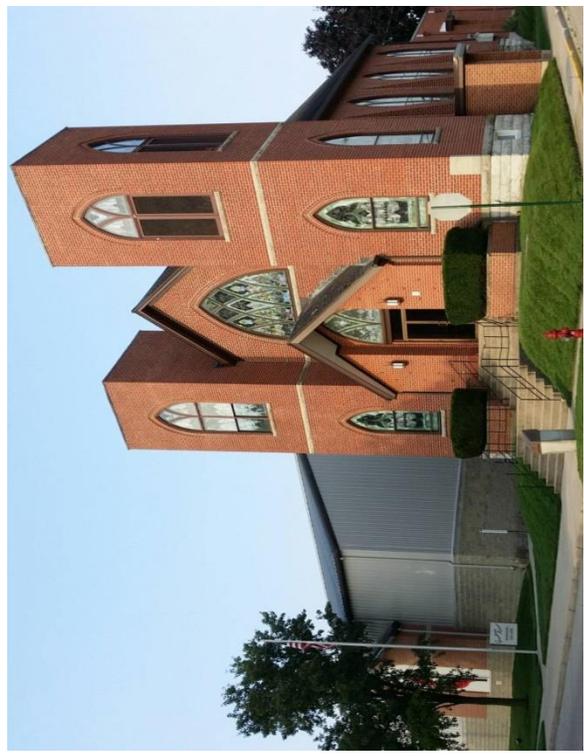


January
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HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 Worship Time: 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.
 Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.
 (937) 698-4401 Website: HoffmanUMC.org
 Pastor Robbie Scott