



THE TOWERS

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

March 2021



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Dust, Ashes and ... Snow?

Galatians 3:27-28 ... all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Tuesday morning I stepped out of the parsonage garage armed with my trusty shovel, a “pusher” type that had been effective on many snowfalls over the years...but Monday night’s snow was a deeper and heavier snow than we normally see. It did not take long for my “pushing” efforts to be in vain, as the mountains I had created on all the edges were no longer able to have shovelfuls “pushed” up them. I had to start scooping and throwing. Today my body is feeling it.

Even as I was huffing and puffing along, I could not help but notice how lovely everything appeared. Why, even my old Grand Am looked better now “dressed” with this pristine layer of white covering its dinginess and its dings. I could no longer see all the blemishes as it was entirely cloaked in white.

In Genesis 3 we are reminded that after “the fall” God did not abandon Adam and Eve. While their actions had a consequence of not being permitted to enter the garden, thus losing access to the fruit of the tree of life (essentially becoming mortal...talk about a superfruit!), God still cared for them, and “clothed” them.

Even though the consequences of sin brought a sort of death sentence on humanity (from dust you came, to dust you shall return), we need those constant reminders of God’s everlasting love and faithfulness. Even as God was punishing Adam and Eve, God was clothing them...blood was shed in order for their shame to be covered, however. Instructions were given to the nomadic people of God the process of shedding blood annually for the sake of paying the penalty of sin. When Christ came, however, God started fitting humanity

with new garments not made from sin, and not produced by the shedding of animal blood.

As the Galatians passage reads, all who are baptized into Christ have been *clothed with Christ*. This is crucial, as it means this gift of God, the one that is by grace and not by works, is one in which God, who knows all our dinginess; all our dings, chooses to see Christ’s righteousness instead of our own, which as you likely know is as *filthy rags*. We are clothed in splendor, clothed in righteousness. But before we start allowing our minds to focus on “skin deep” beauty, thinking I’m only talking about God washing the outside of us to “look” the part, consider this...



We teach in Wesleyan theology that God pursues us before we can ever accept God’s grace. That pursuit has been called Preventive Grace. Once we accept that gift of love, we receive what has been called Justifying Grace, which is when we are clothed in CHRIST’S Righteousness. The next work to happen, also a gift of the Divine, is Sanctifying Grace. One of the ways it is explained is to say that God takes

up residence within us through the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit begins a work of transformation inside us. John Wesley preached and believed it is possible for the Holy Spirit to complete that work even before our earthly body perishes. That the Righteousness that is seen on the outside through Christ’s wardrobe starts becoming reality from the inside out. The timing of this can be instantaneous, or can progress slowly over time. In Theological terms, the “Imputed” righteousness declared upon us through Christ will become “Imparted” righteousness through the work of the Holy Spirit. We become a new creation inside and out. I pray this is a work you have seen in your life. While trying to appreciate the snow cloak through the soreness of muscles, I am, In His Service and yours,



Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Devotions were led by Janet from Max Lucado, "Traveling Light". "Trust God with our burdens we were never meant to share."

Meeting Attendees

Dick Martens, Carol Storer, Katie Poling, Wendy Heisey, Julia Circle, Jill Circle, John Ankerman, Patti Wion, Kim Dohrman, Janet Benkert (zoom) and Pastor Robbie Scott

Pastor's Report

The average attendance in December was 112 with 75 of those being online. Attendance on Christmas Eve: 7pm 50 in person, 32 online. 10pm 15 in person, 24 online. Average attendance for 2020 was 123 for the year. Robbie explained that actual viewers online could be as many as 25% more but is difficult to get accuracy due to use of Facebook.. JoAnn is making progress on the yearend reports for the West Ohio Conference. Becky is preparing for a Valentine Family Fun Night Feb 13. Joseph is preparing for the birth of 5th daughter and will go into self-quarantine in advance as part of paternity leave (*Grace born on 2-15-21!-rs*). Pastor Robbie has been working on various projects, connected to tech, to benefit our worship service including connecting the service to YouTube. Pulpit fill planned January 31 due to Robbie's responsibilities with the Board of Ordained Ministry. Bishop Palmer will preach a recorded sermon on Jonah 3. Chris and Jenna Moran joined as members.

Trustee Update

Phil McFadden is continuing as Trustee Chairman, David Jay as Treasurer and Wendy Heisey as Secretary. Trustee report included a summary of major projects completed in 2020, planned projects for 2021 and Safety and Security Team update.

Finance

The finance report for December was reviewed and accepted. For the 2020 year end, finances overall came out about even comparing income and expenses. John is performing audits.

Non-agenda Items

Robbie reviewed several Covid updates related to our congregation. There was discussion on current Covid soft protocols to remain the same with mask wearing and social distancing. Discussion was held regarding the 6 Special Sundays. We will continue to announce all of them in some format whether with a continued story or PowerPoint within the announcement portion of the service. Dates for Annual Conference to be held virtually are Sunday June 6, 2-6pm and Monday June 7, 8:30-4:30.

Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

| Date | 01-24-21 | 01-31-21 | 02-07-21 | 02-14-21 | 02-21-21 |
|------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| General Offering | 4002.00 | 1682.00 | 5757.48 | 4685.00 | 2870.00 |
| Weekly Budget Need | 4854.00 | 4854.00 | 4854.00 | 4854.00 | 4854.00 |
| Mission Offering | 55.00 | 140.00 | 185.00 | 680.00 | 55.00 |
| Maintenance Fund | 135.00 | 20.00 | 250.00 | 145.00 | 605.00 |
| Building Fund & Memorials | 355.00 | 228.00 | 430.00 | 223.00 | 95.00 |
| Stained Glass Windows | 100.00 | .00 | 150.00 | 100.00 | 16100.00 |
| Online & Physical Attendance | | | | | |
| 9 a.m. Service at church | 20 | 7 | 17 | 18 | 20 |
| * Remote viewing | 49 | 44 | 38 | 44 | 47 |
| 11:15 a.m. Service at church | 27 | 4 | 22 | 22 | 25 |
| * Remote viewing | 30 | 27 | 41 | 37 | 24 |
| Total Attendance | 126 | 82 | 118 | 121 | 116 |

Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

* '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 March 2021

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>1st - Jerry Pinkerton</p> <p>2nd - Pam Hitchcock Hannah Scott</p> <p>4th - Jim Mitchell Cliff & Katie Poling 43yrs</p> <p>5th - Sophia Perkins Linda Seman</p> <p>6th - Jim Scammahorn</p> <p>7th - Alex Morrow</p> <p>10th - Lee Baker Jerry Richards</p> <p>11th - Zeke Moran Mike & Denise Sanderson 32yrs</p> <p>12th - Ivie Markley</p> <p>13th - Jim & Kathy Watkins 50 yrs</p> <p>15th - Wilma Fryman</p> <p>17th - Jack Everage</p> | <p>18th - Evan Beard Nan Guthrie Larry Thoele</p> <p>19th - Rosie Bryson Matthew Burns</p> <p>20th - Phil McFadden Jim & Janet Balsbaugh 22yrs</p> <p>23rd - Winston Klepinger</p> <p>24th - Dan & Erin Studebaker 20yrs</p> <p>25th - Eric Morrow</p> <p>26th - Bill & Judy Brown 50yrs Eames Circle</p> <p>28th - Miriam Miller Marilyn Mitchell</p> <p>29th - Robert Cox Marilyn Stickney</p> |
|--|---|



People to remember in prayer:



Hoffman Sympathies to: the family of Kevin King as he passed away on January 31, 2021

At Home: Phil Blue, Nan Guthrie, Valaria Harshbarger, Wilma Hoover, Helen Keller, Mary Maess, Dick & Eugenie Markley, Miriam Miller, and Monica Winemiller

At Centers: Dorothy Ginn, Cypress Pointe, 600 W. National Rd. Rm 312, Englewood OH 45322
Sherynne King, Koester Pavilion, 3232 N Co. Rd 25A, Rm 67, Troy OH 45373
Wendy Long, Trinity Center, 789 Stonybrook, Rm 208A, Fairborn OH 45324
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

To our church family, thanks everyone for the cards and prayers we received while Kathy was sick and after she passed away. *The Kathy Kinsey Family*

To my Hoffman family, thank you so very much for the cards and words of sympathy with the passing of my son, Kevin. *Sherynne King*

To my Hoffman family, thank you for the many, many birthday cards and phone calls. *Nancy Studebaker*



Congratulations a Baby Girl!

Grace Ann Knostman arrived on February 15, 2021 weighing 6 lbs. 2 ozs. and 19.75"
Congrats to parents Joseph & Jennifer and big sisters Rose, Anna, Emma, & Ellie

Daylight Savings Time Begins March 14th

Remember to spring your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 13th.

Altar Flowers

March 7th are in celebration of Cliff & Katie Poling's 43rd anniversary
March 14th are available
March 21st are available
March 28th are in celebration of Eames Circle's birthday



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: \$ 32,265

Total Project Goal: \$ 109,430

Thank You!



Walk with God in the freedom of forgiveness. The path we follow together is sometimes steep and slippery. If you carry a burden of guilt on your back, you are more likely to stumble and fall. At your request, God will remove the heavy load from you and bury it at the foot of the cross. When God unburdens you, you are undeniably free! Stand up straight and tall in His presence, so that no one can place more burdens on your back. Look into God's face and feel the warmth of His love-light shining upon you. It is this unconditional love that frees you from both fears and sins.

Spend time basking in the light of God's presence. As you come to know God more and more intimately, you grow increasingly free.

From 'Jesus Is Calling' by Sarah Young

**Union Township FISH Food Pantry
 "Simply Give Double Match Days" at Troy Meijer
 On Saturday, March 13th and Saturday, April 3rd**



On Saturday, March 13th and Saturday, April 3rd Troy Meijer's will be doing what they call "**Double Match Days**". When a \$10 gift card is purchased Meijer's will double match it and add to the \$10 purchased and Union Township FISH gets the total of \$30 worth of gift cards for their pantry. If you want to participate in this program and don't want to go to Meijer's in Troy, you can write a check to Union Township FISH and mail it to: 30 Marjorie Ct., West Milton, Ohio 45383 and in memo line put Meijer Simply Give. Or mail it to the church and we will forward it to FISH. They will invest the money donated on one of the Double Match Days. Union Township FISH appreciates any support you give them to help those in need in our community. From February 14 thru April 10th Troy Meijer's will have \$10 gift cards on their racks displaying Union Township FISH as the recipient, but cards purchased on these other days will not be double matched.



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 14th. Your flowers may be picked up after the second service on Easter Sunday, April 4th.

| | Quantity | Total Price |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|
| LILIES @ \$13.50 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| SPRING MUMS \$ 8.50 | _____ | \$ _____ |

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

Your Name: _____

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

X

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Return Service Requested

X



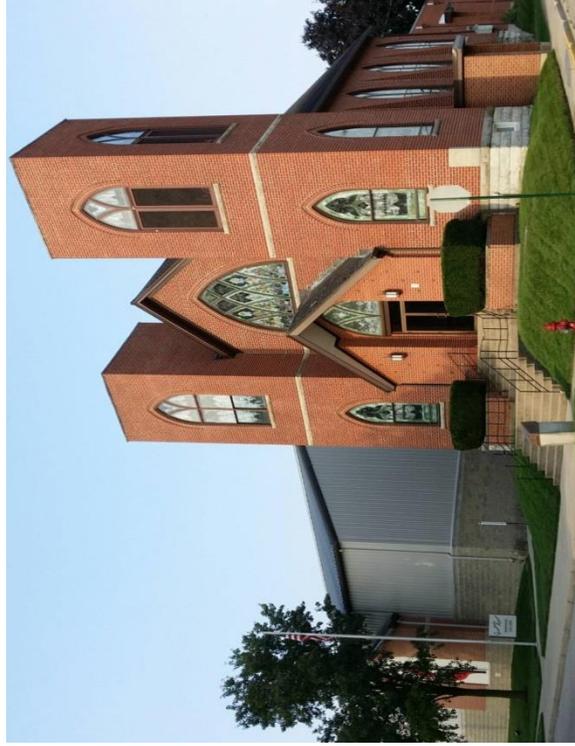
201 S Main Street
 West Milton OH 45383

March
 2021

T O W E R S
T H E R E

Place Label Here

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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