



THE TOWERS

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

April 2021



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

New Life New Hope

Isaiah 35:1-2 The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God.

I thought I enjoyed Spring in the past....I really did. This year though, I am more captivated by it than ever before.

The picture included is from our new tree planted on the west side of the church property, a weeping cherry planted in memory of Jim and Nancy Kinnison. When it was planted it looked so frail and bare. The instructions were to not water it, but to wait until the Spring. I have found myself doubting it would ever bloom. It isn't that I didn't trust the professionals who brought it...I just have found that doubt has crept into

my life. This past year has been one in which I feel if I were a tree, my branches by now have been stripped of their blossoms, and of their leaves. I have too often felt bare, helpless, defenseless, and without hope.

My own expectations when this season began was that we were making temporary changes for a few weeks. That was then edited to a couple months, then to several months, and now has stretched over a year. Like many of you, that has had an impact on my emotional health, and I fear it has impacted my spiritual health, though admittedly it is difficult to measure those dynamics while still "in the midst" of it all.

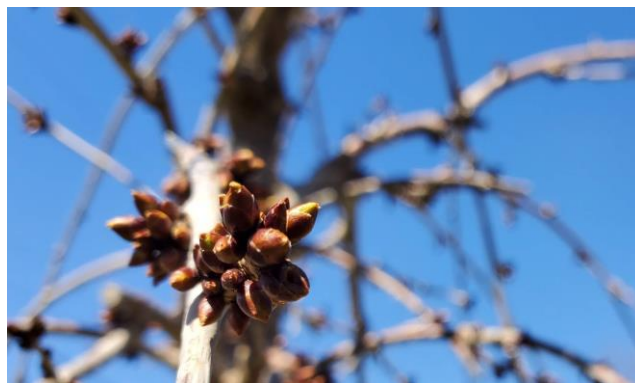
We live in a region in which we watch the seasons change, and now we have front row seats to watch the natural world around us come back to life. Trees, shrubs, and flowers are starting to bud. It is difficult to miss the similarity of what we are seeing from the society and neighborhood around us.

We are starting to see people emerge from a long cold winter, and smiles are being exchanged, and conversations are being shared in person once more. The last two Sundays we have had 35 or more in the pews in at least one of the services, and I find myself more nervous than I was when

the number was over twice that each Sunday so long ago.

Passover is set by the lunar calendar, which means it is always in the Spring for us in the northern hemisphere. We have the advantage of celebrating new life and new hope in the physical world around us even as we celebrate new life and new hope through the Resurrection of Christ.

When we find ourselves in the midst of life's dark winters, it is difficult to see the hope of Spring and new life. Sometimes, though, we are given glimpses of its arrival. In the natural world, we are hearing birds start to sing, and then of course



there are those budding branches I mentioned earlier. Ever notice how non-beautiful those are? With very few exceptions, the buds themselves are not attractive. So why was I so encouraged, why did my spirit lift up when I saw those buds on that bare tree? I think you know. It is because I know what is coming next, a slow motion explosion of

color and beauty waiting to burst forth...albeit slowly, revealing the blossoms still contained within that bud.

I wonder if this is what is being felt by families and congregations across our land? Could it be that after such a season, a season in which many have felt themselves to be in a "desert and parched land," that we are in our best position ever to see the glory and splendor of God? This is part of my prayer for our community of faith, and for our neighbors here and around the world. May the hope of the empty tomb...no. Scratch that. The disciples were not yet encouraged by the empty tomb...it was encountering the resurrected Lord that gave them hope. May a fresh encounter with our Resurrected Lord and King cause hope to bloom and blossom forth in ways we never imagine, transforming us into people of true hope. While imagining what the buds will produce,

I am, In His service and yours,



Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Patti Wion shared a devotional by William Wallace about true freedom being obtained through our relationship with God. Galatians 5:1 and Luke 4:18-19. Patti opened the meeting with prayer.

Meeting Attendees

Carol Storer, Katie Poling, David Jay, Julia Circle, Jill Circle, John Ankerman, Patti Wion, Kim Dohrman, Dan Studebaker (zoom) and Pastor Robbie Scott

Pastor's Report

The average attendance in January 103: 37 in person, 66 online. Online attendance for the 9am service is nearly double the 11:15 online audience.

The addition of YouTube streaming should connect a few more households, and could be a better "outreach" vehicle than only using Facebook LIVE.

Becky planned and hosted a successful Valentine Family Fun night with households sharing with social distancing.

Becky has accepted another part-time position as preschool director for Good Shepherd Lutheran. She plans to continue her position here at Hoffman.

Joseph is on paternity leave for baby #5. Pastor Robbie has shared several projects he has been working on including two grant applications. The Miami Valley District has Grant Application for Technology upgrades. Request made to assist with

increased technology needs of online worship delivery including: microphone, computer, cable/connections and other technology updates. The second application is a Conference Grant for communications. The board voted in support of these grant applications. The Photo Directory is progressing.

Robbie has written several college recommendation letters. Robbie's vacation scheduled for July 26-August 8, near Toronto Canada. Easter services were briefly discussed with the possibility of no sunrise service, which would most likely also cancel the United Methodist's Men Breakfast as well. Plans have not been finalized.

Trustee Update

Snow removal service was switched to Monroe Ground Services due to some requests with the previous company. Quotes for the new boiler continue to be reviewed with the most cost-effective plan to repair the current basement boiler. Phil McFadden's name will be added to the trustee's checking account within the next week.

Finance

The finance report for January was reviewed and accepted. With January being a five Sunday month, we did not average the normal increase in giving during January. The Fund Balance Report was completed and in good order.

Financial Update from Pastor Robbie

Historically the first and third quarters of each calendar year are challenging ones for Hoffman UMC, as our expenses are higher due to annual/biannual bills and more expenses in climate control and property care. The snow and ice removal bill from the recent winter storm, for example, due in March is about \$1,100. We are not in dire need, but the budget in recent years has been cut to a very slim margin, so I wanted to make our Hoffman family aware that we are operating in a negative cash flow or "in the red" by \$4,554.34 as of February 28, 2021. The first page of our February Finance Statement is on the next page for you to review. You can always find this statement posted each month on the bulletin board in back of the sanctuary. Thank you always for your prayers and support for the ministry to our community and the world we get to be a part of due to your faithfulness.

HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2021 FINANCE REPORT					
General Budget and Missions Budget					
February 28, 2021					
		MONTH		YEAR-TO-DATE	
1010	First Sunday		5,757.48	8,349.48	
1020	Second Sunday		4,685.00	9,044.00	
1030	Third Sunday		2,770.00	7,884.00	
1040	Fourth Sunday		3,360.00	7,362.00	
1050	Fifth Sunday		0.00	1,632.00	
Total Regular Offering			16,572.48	34,271.48	
1060	Misc. Income		100.00	425.00	
**Total Income			16,672.48	34,696.48	
		BUDGET FOR YEAR	PAID OUT THIS MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE PAID OUT	BALANCE OF BUDGET
1	Conference Apportionments	18,547.00	1,545.00	3,097.00	15,450.00
2	District Adm. Apportionments	2,693.00	224.00	453.00	2,240.00
Total Local Apportionments		21,240.00	1,769.00	3,550.00	17,690.00
3	Hospitality	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
4	Outreach	250.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
5	Worship	1,000.00	7.00	281.87	718.13
6	Music	750.00	0.00	506.00	244.00
7	Media Subscriptions	2,000.00	449.85	636.83	1,363.17
8	Assimilation	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
9	Kids Hope	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
10	Youth Ministry	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Total Council of Ministries		5,250.00	456.85	1,424.70	3,825.30
OFFICE SUPPLY & FINANCE					
11	Finance & Stewardship	900.00	0.00	62.15	837.85
12	Office Supplies & Postage	4,000.00	77.00	396.60	3,603.40
Total Administrative & Other Minist		4,900.00	77.00	458.75	4,441.25
13	Pastor Parish	250.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
14	Staff Salary	122,740.51	8,995.44	17,990.88	104,749.63
15	Health Ins. & Pension	39,321.30	3,330.21	6,660.42	32,660.88
16	Acct. Reimbursement-Pastor	4,000.00	473.29	669.39	3,330.61
17	Hoffman Family Benevolence	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
18	Pulpit Supply	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
19	Employer Payroll Taxes	6,121.12	401.19	802.38	5,318.74
20	Moving Allowance	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
21	Lakeside Conf Deligate	550.00	0.00	0.00	550.00
Total Staff & Parish Relations		174,782.93	13,200.13	26,123.07	148,659.86
22	Maintenance	1,500.00	342.00	358.57	1,141.43
23	Utilities	31,092.00	2,205.66	4,307.32	26,784.68
24	Building Insurance	4,868.00	0.00	1,248.00	3,620.00
25	Real Estate Taxes Parsonage	2,980.00	1,480.41	1,480.41	1,499.59
26	Snow Plowing & Yard Work	4,800.00	185.00	300.00	4,500.00
27	Supplies	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
Total Trustees		46,240.00	4,213.07	7,694.30	38,545.70
**Total General Budgeted Expenses		252,412.93	19,716.05	39,250.82	213,162.11
MISSIONS BUDGET					
28	Conference - World Services	5,000.00	416.50	835.00	4,165.00
29	District Mission Apportionments	2,584.00	215.00	434.00	2,150.00
30	MU Council of Churches	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00
31	Missionaries	600.00	50.00	100.00	500.00
32	Advanced Specials	547.50	0.00	0.00	547.50
Total Budgeted Missions Expense		8,981.50	681.50	1,619.00	7,362.50

Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	02-28-21	03-07-21	3-14-21	3-21-21
General Offering	3360.00	5875.53	6293.09	3725.00
Weekly Budget Need	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00
Mission Offering	170.00	340.00	55.00	80.00
Maintenance Fund	125.00	340.00	55.00	95.00
Building Fund & Memorials	160.00	303.00	156.00	100.00
Stained-Glass Windows	5.00	100.00	1105.00	100.00
Online & Physical Attendance				
9 a.m. Service at church	20	30	36	35
* Remote viewing	40	32	30	31
11:15 a.m. Service at church	24	22	24	25
* Remote viewing	37	30	19	21
Total Attendance	121	114	109	112

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 April 2021

4th - Sharon Trittschuh
Jerry & Libby Richards (40 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 (64 yrs)
15th - Tom Kinsey
16th - Libby Richards



17th - Darin & Patti Wion (28 yrs)
19th - Dixie Porter
21st - Marilyn Yount
22nd - Barb Frazier
Jennifer Knostman
Tom Weeks
24^t - Cooper Dohrman
26th - Marijo Schlecht
Jeremy & Wendy Heisey (21 yrs)
Lester & Sharon Trittschuh (52 yrs)
28^t - Michael Barnes

People to remember in prayer:



Hoffman Sympathies to: the family of Ted Black, Marty's dad, as he passed away on March 16, 2010

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 29**, 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



Dear Church Family, Thank you for all my birthday cards and well wishes for my 70th birthday! I appreciate you all,
Love, Janet Balsbaugh

Calling all Grads!

Please contact the church office (937) 698-4401 if you will be receiving a diploma or degree this year. All graduates will be listed in our May newsletter.



Altar Flowers

April 4th are in celebration of Sharon Trittschuh's birthday
April 11th are in celebration of Taylor Beaschler's birthday
from Grandpa & Grandma
April 18th available
April 25th are in celebration of Nate & Brittany Ankerman's
birthdays from John & Anita



Easter

Breakfast at 8 a.m.

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

No Sunrise Service

Can't locate your copy of the Towers?

Current and back issues of the newsletter can be found on our website: HoffmanUMC.org.
Take a look; they are now in color!

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: \$ 33,575

Total Project Goal : \$ 109,430

Thank You!



Simply Believe

In the world, you don't believe anything until you see it. When you pray, believe that you receive, and you will get the manifestation of it. In God's kingdom, you have to believe it first, and then you see it. Jesus said "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer" (Matthew 21:22 NIV) God's ear is turned toward those who pray to Him in faith. Peter was the only one who walked on water besides Jesus, but he was also the only one who got out of the boat. Until you make a decision to believe, and then act on it, nothing will happen.

Copied from "Starting Your Day Right" by Joyce Meyer

Hoffman Stained-Glass Window Restoration Project Update

March 2021

Background: The trustees noticed that Hoffman's stained-glass windows are in dire need of restoration. There are several windows that have gaps where the glass has separated from the frame and lead comes, and some of the saddle bars that support the stained glass are broken. The restoration companies told us that the storm windows that protect the glass need to be vented.

There are 18 stained-glass windows in the church, ranging in size of 70" x 70" to the large 116" x 128" window above the front door that is in the worst shape. The glass has sagged so much that there are gaps between glass and the window frame and the window is in danger of falling in if it is not repaired.

Update: So far, 31% (\$33,575 of \$109,430 total project costs) has been donated to the stained-glass window restoration fund. The trustees asked the church board to approve a capital fund drive to obtain pledges for 50% of the project cost before proceeding with the restoration.



Large East Window



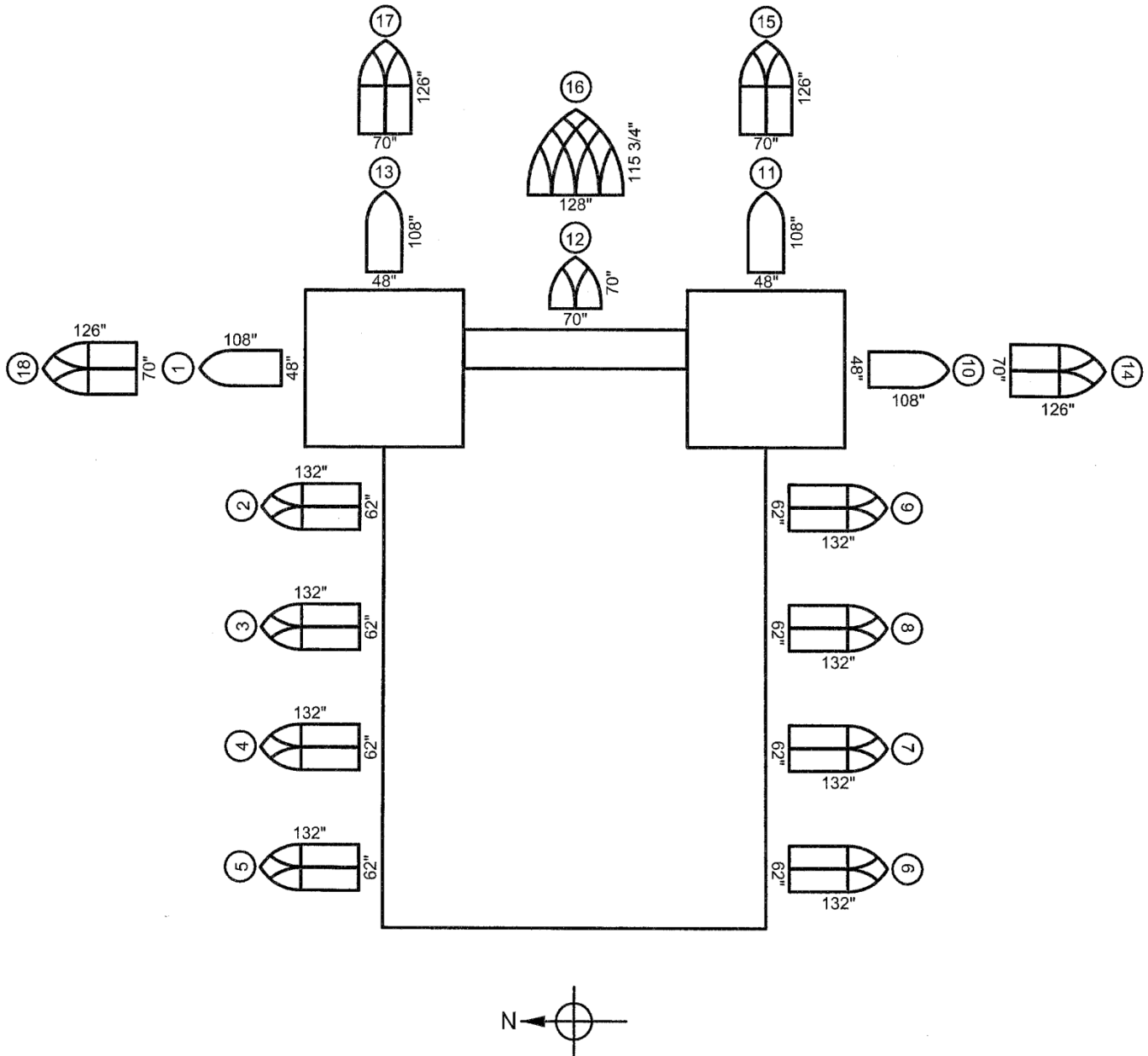
Gap between glass and frame

Please consider pledging a regular gift to the stained-glass window project or sponsoring the total cost of restoring a window. A memorial plaque recognizing the sponsor of the window will be added if desired. Please let David Jay (937) 698-6412 know which window you want to sponsor. The list and cost of each window restoration is:

Window	Cost	Window	Cost
1 North Tower, Low	\$4,250	10 South Tower, Low	\$4,250
2 Sanctuary, North Wall, Right	\$6,710	11 South Tower, East Wall, Low	\$4,250
3 Sanctuary, North Wall, 2 nd	\$6,710	12 Small above front door	\$4,000
4 Sanctuary, North Wall, 3 rd	\$6,710	13 North Tower, East Wall, Low	\$4,250
5 Sanctuary, North Wall, Left	\$6,710	14 South Tower, South Wall, High	\$7,250
6 Sanctuary, South Wall, Right	\$6,710	15 South Tower, East Wall, High	\$7,250
7 Sanctuary, South Wall, 2 nd	Reserved	16 Large, above front door	\$12,250
8 Sanctuary, South Wall, 3 rd	Sponsored	17 North Tower, East Wall, High	\$4,000
9 Sanctuary, South Wall, Left	\$6,710	18 North Tower, North Wall, High	\$4,000
Total project \$109,430			

Please prayerfully consider pledging or giving to the stained-glass window restoration fund!

HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WEST MILTON, OH
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Return Service Requested

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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

**April
2021**

**T O W E R S
T H E**