



# THE TOWERS

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

May 2021



## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

### *Perseverance Under Trial*

**James 1:12 Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him.**

There seems to come a point when words fail us. The longer this global virus has been with humanity, the more we are at a loss to talk “around” it. I found myself the other evening silently counting how many times I was hearing particular wordings in commercials, whether I would hear “these unprecedented times” or “these uncertain times,” or some other wording that talks around what we are collectively enduring, all while staying nice and polite and upbeat.

The picture you see on the page was taken the morning of April 21, just after the quick snow that disappeared nearly as quickly as it appeared. I walked around the block to take a few pictures of beauty peeking from beneath the congregations of snowflakes. I liked the contrast of the color vs the stark white snow, but found myself gravitating to this more “plain” photograph. A few blades of grass, standing in a row, having wriggled, squeezed and adapted their way through a crack in the sidewalk, and for what reward? To be stepped on, snowed on, and eventually, mowed off. Despite the fate awaiting them, these blades of grass stood resolute....even proud, if I may be so bold.



I’m sure there is a point in which the weight of the snow could have been too much for these wispy blades of grass, but before that time came, the sun came out, and the snow melted away. I have heard several express in our culture and community over the last year that they are so “done” with all the various protective measures. It is our way of just saying we are fed up. Many years ago I was in my 4<sup>th</sup> year of working retail during Christmas rush and I decided I was “done” with retail. The next year I was employed elsewhere. I have heard similar statements made by those going through chemo or radiation treatments, that they are so “done” with this...yet they keep on going. This is because the choices are different. To continue in a work environment I was not enjoying was

something I could do something about. Those who continue treatments against cancer are choosing to continue the fight.

When it comes to this virus, it is a health challenge that humanity must continue fighting. I’m aware there are disagreements about it, but I have landed solidly in the “do no harm” category throughout the last year. The news this Spring in our region has been encouraging. Miami county was among the first hit in Ohio, so we went through the second wave sooner. I am convinced that the time and care we have invested into that care has not been wasted. Multiple local congregations went through “spread events” that we were able

to avoid, by the grace of God and by the ways we watched out for each other.

I want to believe this is nearly over, and yet I am reminded that viruses are like cancers in that they don’t “care” if we are tired of them. Like the cancer patients I’ve known through the years who go through occasional tests to assure it is still gone, or the same size, it is possible we as a culture will be

dealing with and testing for this virus and its variants for some time to come. I will be pleased if I end up being wrong.

Regardless of the way we word this season we have endured, this virus has become a very visible exercise in perseverance. It is my prayer that the worst is behind us, but as other countries struggle even now, I am reminded to press on longer, to do what I can to continue to be part of the solution, no matter how tired I am of mask acne 😊. Despite the varied views, I do appreciate the kindness this church family has had with one another. Up to this point you are living into the mark that Jesus said would let the world know who His followers are...by the love had for one another. Thank You.

May we continue to persevere through this trial, and the next one, and the next one, until our faith is made sight, and the crown of life promise is fulfilled.

I am,  
In His service and yours,



## Board Meeting Highlights

### Devotions

Jill Circle shared a devotional from “Our Daily Bread” on Psalm 100. Jill opened the meeting with prayer.

### Meeting Attendees

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

### Pastor’s Report

The average attendance 9:00 in person- 19, online- 42; 11:15 in person- 23, online- 35. YouTube channel streaming began in Feb. The channel is growing in subscriptions. Total average trends for the past few months are increasing. The Financial update along with the front page of the finance statement will now be included periodically in the Towers, Norman has been helping with praise band recording sessions, resulting in improvement with the audio balance. Becky has been offering a single Sunday School class for all kids present on Sunday. Joseph plans to restart to Ignite youth after Easter. Pastor Robbie gave a grant application update. We were awarded approximately \$2000 which is less than hoped due to the large number of applications. This will be used to purchase the PTZOptics 30X camera to aid in livestream of services. Picture directory is being carefully edited prior to submission for publication. Robbie’s vacation scheduled for July 26-August 8, near Toronto

Canada. Tim Benkert pulpit fill confirmed Aug 1 and Tom Weeks confirmed for Aug 8.

### Trustee Update

Quotes for the boiler repair or replacement continue to be reviewed for the most cost-effective plan. The stained glass capital fund is ongoing.

### Finance

The finance report for February was reviewed. The weeks of operations or “budget need in cash”, is now 6.69 weeks. Some discussion on concern of the amount paid compared to recent income. We had 2 Sundays in February with giving under expenses. John reviewed the Guiding Principles B1, procedure for reduced “Weeks of operations” if we continue to have giving under expenses. He encouraged the board to outreach through the congregation with the current finance status.

### Nominations

Nominations and Lay Leadership Report 2021 was reviewed.

### Additional Business

A discussion was held regarding the process of gathering offerings. The board referred to the discussion of a lockbox to the trustees committee



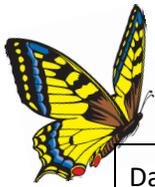
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Friends, I want to share my appreciation for the response of so many, as we were certain March finances were going to result in a large deficit, but that is not what happened, thanks to you. We are still behind for the year as far as income vs expenses, but instead of being a difficult month, March was a reminder of the great faithfulness of this congregation. The first page of our March 2021 finance statement is on the next page for you to review. You can always find the current statement posted each month on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you so much. -Pastor Robbie

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<b>HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2021 FINANCE REPORT</b>					
<b>General Budget and Missions Budget</b>					
<b>March 31, 2021</b>					
		<b>MONTH</b>	<b>YEAR-TO-DATE</b>		
1010	First Sunday	5,875.53	14,225.01		
1020	Second Sunday	6,293.09	15,337.09		
1030	Third Sunday	3,725.00	11,609.00		
1040	Fourth Sunday	6,909.01	14,271.01		
1050	Fifth Sunday	0.00	1,632.00		
Total Regular Offering		22,802.63	57,074.11		
1060	Misc. Income	25.00	450.00		
<b>**Total Income</b>		22,827.63	57,524.11		
		<b>BUDGET FOR YEAR</b>	<b>PAID OUT THIS MONTH</b>	<b>YEAR-TO-DATE PAID OUT</b>	<b>BALANCE OF BUDGET</b>
1	Conference Apportionments	18,547.00	1,545.00	4,642.00	13,905.00
2	District Adm. Apportionments	2,693.00	224.00	677.00	2,016.00
Total Local Apportionments		21,240.00	1,769.00	5,319.00	15,921.00
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	63.25	345.12	654.88
6	Music	750.00	0.00	506.00	244.00
7	Media Subscriptions	2,000.00	79.99	716.82	1,283.18
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	143.24	1,567.94	3,682.06
<b>OFFICE SUPPLY &amp; FINANCE</b>					
11	Finance & Stewardship	900.00	0.00	62.15	837.85
12	Office Supplies & Postage	4,000.00	331.50	728.10	3,271.90
Total Administrative & Other Minist		4,900.00	331.50	790.25	4,109.75
13	Pastor Parish	250.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
14	Staff Salary	122,740.51	11,244.30	29,235.18	93,505.33
15	Health Ins. & Pension	39,321.30	3,185.10	9,845.52	29,475.78
16	Acct. Reimbursement-Pastor	4,000.00	95.00	764.39	3,235.61
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	501.46	1,303.84	4,817.28
20	Moving Allowance	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
21	Lakeside Conf Deligate	550.00	0.00	0.00	550.00
Total Staff & Parish Relations		174,782.93	16,025.86	42,148.93	132,634.00
22	Maintenance	1,500.00	94.38	452.95	1,047.05
23	Utilities	31,092.00	1,974.64	6,281.96	24,810.04
24	Building Insurance	4,868.00	0.00	1,248.00	3,620.00
25	Real Estate Taxes Parsonage	2,980.00	0.00	1,480.41	1,499.59
26	Snow Plowing & Yard Work	4,800.00	1,274.50	1,574.50	3,225.50
27	Supplies	1,000.00	8.59	8.59	991.41
Total Trustees		46,240.00	3,352.11	11,046.41	35,193.59
<b>**Total General Budgeted Expenses</b>		252,412.93	21,621.71	60,872.53	191,540.40
<b>MISSIONS BUDGET</b>					
28	Conference - World Services	5,000.00	416.50	1,251.50	3,748.50
29	District Mission Apportionments	2,584.00	265.00	699.00	1,885.00
30	MU Council of Churches	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00
31	Missionaries	600.00	50.00	150.00	450.00
32	Advanced Specials	547.50	0.00	0.00	547.50
Total Budgeted Missions Expense		8,981.50	731.50	2,350.50	6,631.00



## Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	3/28/21	4/4/21	4/11/21	4/18/21
General Offering	6909.01	6217.00	4967.00	3847.00
Weekly Budget Need	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00
Mission Offering	205.00	240.00	142.00	85.00
Maintenance Fund	620.00	180.00	352.00	445.00
Building Fund & Memorials	340.00	285.00	207.00	45.00
Stained Glass Windows	4000.00	920.00	17780.00	80.00
Online & Physical Attendance				
9 a.m. Service at church	35	70	40	34
* Remote viewing	40	29	37	25
11:15 a.m. Service at church	23	44	56	34
* Remote viewing	22	11	10	13
Total Attendance	120	154	143	106



\* '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 May 2021

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Teesha Beard
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Kim Adams
- 9<sup>th</sup> - Corinne McKay  
Mike Sanderson
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Terry Beetley  
Eugenie Markley
- 13<sup>th</sup> - Becky Garrett
- 15<sup>th</sup> - David & Linda Thompson (21 yrs)
- 16<sup>th</sup> - Joyce Herron
- 17<sup>th</sup> - Johanna Morrow
- 23<sup>rd</sup> - Chris & Linda Long (23 yrs)
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Owen Morrow



- 25<sup>th</sup> - Helen Keller  
Dick Markley
- 29<sup>th</sup> - Bonnie Brown  
Jill Circle  
Julia Circle  
Levi Scott  
Linda Thompson
- 30<sup>th</sup> - Carol Bailey
- 31<sup>st</sup> - Anna Knostman  
Cliff Poling  
Bradley & Bonnie Brown (52 yrs)



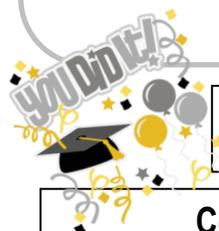
**People to remember in prayer:**



**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**

**Congratulations Graduates!**

Cody Dohrman, Milton Union High School  
Kyleigh Ryan, Milton Union High School  
Dane Studebaker, Milton Union High School & MVCTC

**Memorial Service for Kevin King**

Friday, May 21, 2021 at 6 p.m.  
At Hoffman UMC  
Meal to follow in Activity Center



**May 9, 2021**

**Altar Flowers**

May 2<sup>nd</sup> are available  
May 9<sup>th</sup> are in celebration Becky Garrett's birthday  
May 16<sup>th</sup> are available  
May 23<sup>rd</sup> are in celebration Julia Circle's birthday  
May 30<sup>th</sup> are in celebration Cliff Poling's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday



Dear Church Family, I wish to thank my Sunday school class, bible study class, visitation team members, and everyone else who called or sent cards over the last three months; it has meant so much. Sherynne King

**A Friendly Reminder . . .** Please remember before borrowing church property that we ask that you reserve the items by contacting JoAnn in the church office at 937.698.4401 before borrowing the items. Others may have the items reserved or they may be needed for a scheduled church function. Thank you,  
Phil McFadden, Trustee Chairperson

Thank you, church family, for your prayers, cards, visits, and calls throughout the illness of Martin's parents, Irita and Ted Black, and after their deaths in January and March. Your loving support is treasured by our family.  
Wendy and Martin Black



**Stained Glass Window Restoration Project**

Amount Received: \$ 56,355  
Total Project Goal: \$ 109,430  
*Thank You!*

**Union Township FISH**

Needs: toilet paper, paper towels, and shampoo  
Donation bin is in hallway underneath mailboxes.  
Position open for a Trustee, if interested call Ralph Warner at (937) 672-7303.  
Double Match Day is June 19th. Send donations to: Ralph Warner at 30 Marjorie Ct., W. Milton. Checks payable to: Union Township FISH. *Thanks*



**With Honor & Gratitude  
We Remember**

**Memorial Day  
May 31, 2021**

## **Church Garage Sale**

**June 10<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Remember to save your unwanted sellable items for the sale.  
Items can be put in the activity center on the stage behind the partitions anytime or  
drop off your items on Wednesday, June 9<sup>th</sup> between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m.  
after Grandma's Kitchen pick up.

Questions contact Mike Circle (937) 623-5731

## **Grandma's Kitchen to Re-Open for Carryout Only**

Grandma's Kitchen will re-open on May 12th and plans to serve meals the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. There will be no dine-in at this time; meals will be carryout only. Please let family, friends and neighbors know as we will be doing limited advertising.

We still need a couple of volunteers. If you would like to help but don't like to prepare food or cook, we have a job that might be a good fit as we need one or two drivers to help with deliveries. If you are interested in volunteering for this job—or for any other job—please call Marilyn Mitchell at 937-947-1831 or the church at 937-698-4401.

We look forward to seeing you again and hope you will support Grandma's Kitchen and its mission of providing food for the families in our community.

## **GRANDMA'S KITCHEN May & June 2021 MENU (Carryout Only - No Dine In)**

**HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

**201 S. MAIN STREET, WEST MILTON (937) 698-4401**

**Website: [HoffmanUMC.org](http://HoffmanUMC.org)**

**Carryout pick up from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m.**

**May 12 (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)**

**Chicken Casserole**

**Green Beans**

**Slaw**

**Cream Puffs**

**May 26 (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday)**

**Baked Spaghetti**

**Tossed Salad**

**Garlic Knots**

**Chocolate Delight**

**June 9 (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday)**

**Meat Loaf**

**Mashed Potatoes**

**Peas**

**Applesauce**

**Jello Cake**

**June 23 (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday)**

**Sliced Ham**

**Potato Salad**

**Baked Beans**

**Angelic Pineapple Cake**

**Menu items are subject to change**

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



Let's go to the Park  
Saturday, May 1  
Any time after 5:00PM.  
W. Milton Park- Shelter #3



Bring a picnic dinner for your family!!



VBS Summer 2021

- July 18-22
- Sunday thru Thursday
- 6:00-8:30 PM

Special treat on Thursday!!

Traditional Service  
9AM

...

Sunday School Hour  
10:15-11:10AM

...

Open Door Service  
11:15AM

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

Ignite  
Sundays  
6-8

...

Movie Night  
May 30<sup>th</sup>  
8-10:30

...

Get Weekly Updates  
Text: @Hofignite  
To: 81010

Youth Director: Joseph Knostman  
[JosephKnostman@hoffmanumc.org](mailto:JosephKnostman@hoffmanumc.org)  
937-573-7212

### Back in Action:

*So then faith cometh by hearing,  
and hearing by the word of God.  
Romans 10:17*



Hello church family! Thank you for your love, prayers and support with the birth of our daughter, Grace!

Ignite has been a roller coaster this year! When COVID cases were on the rise, we took breaks and once they settled, we met. In April, we started meeting again and will pray that things will start getting back to normal. Middle and high school groups are meeting together every week. Meetings are being held outside at the Knostman Homestead as much as possible so that we can distance without wearing masks. In April we had a bonfire. We are continuing a series called Room for Doubt. May 30<sup>th</sup>, we are planning an outdoor movie night.

### Ignite needs:

- Sunday night volunteers to spend time with the youth (no prep)
- “Low-prep/personal” snacks like bags of chips, Nachos, mozzarella sticks, soft pretzels, cookies, fruit cups, etc.

X

Non-Profit  
 Organization  
 U. S. Postage Paid  
 Tipp City, OH  
 Permit No. 26



Return Service Requested

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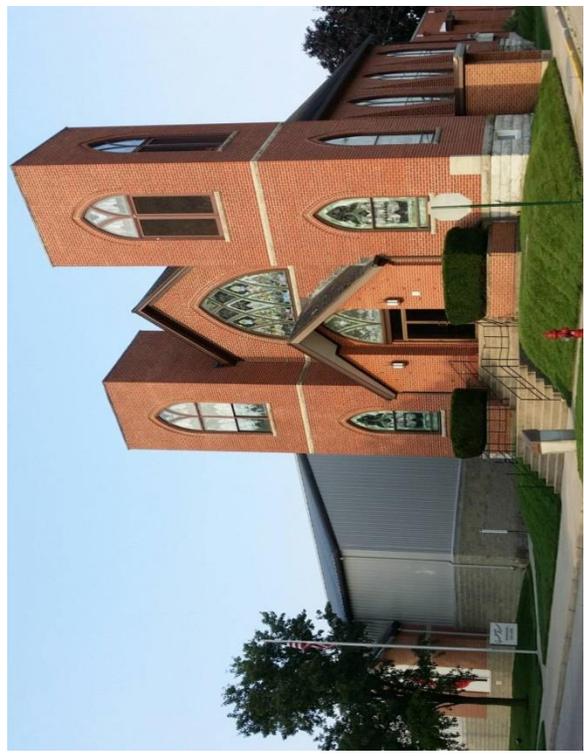


May 2021

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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