



THE TOWERS

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

August 2021



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Moving Closer to the Light

Revelation 22:5 5 And there shall no longer be any night; and they shall not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God shall illumine them; and they shall reign forever and ever.

I believe I took both of these pictures in 2002, soon after graduating from Ohio University (go bobcats). Some of you may tire of me mentioning this trip Bridget and I took "before kids," but it does come to mind often. I traveled with multiple cameras, lenses, and rolls of film. I wanted to get THE snapshot of the lighthouse where we stayed at the lightkeeper's house, a bed and breakfast in which our room had a view of the light at all times. Of course I wanted to see the light at night, but I did not plan to take many pictures, as I was using film, and I had my doubts I could get the quality I wanted. In recent years we have been spoiled by digital cameras letting us see our pictures right after we take them.

The host at the house insisted that we really needed to go to the lighthouse after dark, and so we did. Though the lightkeeper's house was only about 200 yards from the lighthouse, the difference as we got closer to the light was stunning. From a distance it appears there is a single beam as the light source is focused through the lens. As we walked closer, we could see there were 2 beams, then 4, then 8, and when finally we stood in the yard of the lighthouse, it appeared there were countless small beams of light that were panning over us between the main larger beams. I have been to multiple peaceful places over the years, but I'm not sure I have ever felt more at peace in a particular place than with this canopy of light shining over me. It was mesmerizing, and as I feared, the picture I took didn't do it justice, but still connects me to this precious memory. In this case, the light was merely shining "over" me. Darkness still surrounded me, but I didn't have the same

uncertainty in the darkness I normally would. In John's Revelation, which includes a vision of heaven, there is no need for a lamp or for the sun as the Lord God is the great illuminator, filling all shadows with Divine light.

One of the many lessons I remember from this moment at

Heceta Head Light was how my location impacted my experience. When I was farther from the light, I knew it was there, and still experienced its power and beauty, but it did not compare to when there beside it.

I think it can be that way in our spiritual lives as well. Maybe we get accustomed to being a certain distance "away," and we still marvel...but various other things keep us from getting too close...or worse, we feel a little farther away than we used to. We can in our minds reason

accurately that God does not move, but it takes a bit for the realize we have been moving away, and how. Before you think I'm talking about you, I want to be clear I am talking about me.

It has been 18 months unlike any I have had in my life. Too many times I have put on my shoulders the (false) responsibility that it was up to me keep people safe; to keep the congregation virtually connected; to keep families or households from leaving. Don't get me wrong, I think efforts were and are necessary, but with each time I put the pressure on myself, and depend on my power, ingenuity, or will...I'm not depending on God's. And another

imperceptible shuffle away from the light happens. I write this in the midst of a very active week of Vacation Bible School, just before my family and I take some time away. It is true of course that this is vacation, but it is also true that I hope to use the time and space to allow myself to take more steps back toward God's Light. Stay near the light friends!

I am,
In His service and yours,





Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Devotions were offered by Janet Benkert. She shared from Bishop Palmer's words during annual conference this year. "Let us run this race with perseverance". Janet opened the meeting with prayer.

Meeting Attendees

Katie Poling, Dick Martens, Carol Storer, Dan Studebaker, David Jay, Julia Circle, Jill Circle, John Ankerman, Patti Wion, Janet Benkert, and Pastor Robbie Scott

Mission and Ministry

There was an update on the anti-racism prayer service that was held 6/13/2021.

Pastor's Report

The average attendance for May was 125.6; 9:00am 47.6 in person, 26 online; 11:15am 42.2 in person, 9.6 online. Robbie shared an overview of statistical tracking of attendance, which shows a gradual rise in attendance. Norman plans for Chancel and Bell choir to restart in September. Becky is updating the Safe Sanctuary training.

Registration for VBS is available online. Joseph is meeting weekly with the youth and looking ahead to the plans for the Fall Pastor Robbie plans to take a vacation day once a week during the summer months. The directory has been distributed. The directory app which is yet to arrive allows the church to add additional attendees for the next 4 years. We should be able to add a link to the service and link to a bible app through the directory app. Father's Day treats are ready. The plan is to return to use of bulletins on July 4th. Sunday July 25 will be a "VBS worship" Robbie has vacation scheduled for July 26-August 8.

Trustees

The contract for stained glass repairs requires 10% down with no need for progress payments. The project is approximately 2 weeks' worth of work. We are next in line after the company completes projects already scheduled through August. The boiler needs to be replaced. Our current boiler is rated for 30 years and we have had it for 42 years. The trustees recommend accepting the \$32,000 quote from Bolyard, Greenville, for 2 new high-efficiency boilers including a \$3600 rebate for high efficiency units. The board approved for Trustees to engage in a contract for the new high efficiency boiler with Bolyard at \$32,000 +/- 10%. The board approved \$15,000 out of the endowment fund and \$15,000 from Trustees checking. The trustees are considering an alternative pest control contract.

Finance

The finance report for May was reviewed and accepted. The report indicates we have 7.11 weeks of operation available with current income. There was a strong ending to May

Non-agenda Items Janet gave a report on the 52nd session of West Ohio Annual Conference which was printed in the June newsletter.

Joy Paulus has requested to no longer manage the Sunday School attendance books. Julia Circle will be the next Sunday School Superintendent as part of secretarial duties. We will continue the current books and tallying procedure.

Upcoming Events

July 18-22 VBS
July 30-Aug 1 Art Show
Aug 1 Church Picnic
Aug 22 MU Prayer Walk
Aug 23 Teacher Luncheon

Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	06-20-21	06-27-21	07-04-21	07-11-21	07-18-21
General Offering	2852.00	3537.00	6231.01	3999.00	4519.00
Weekly Budget Need	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00
Mission Offering	140.00	280.00	430.00	270.00	130.00
Maintenance Fund	470.00	105.00	320.00	305.00	85.00
Building Fund & Memorials	70.00	150.00	562.00	80.00	35.00
Stained Glass Windows	100.00	135.00	1060.00	600.00	5860.00
Online & Physical Attendance					
9 a.m. Service at church	57	52	56	51	57
* Remote viewing	22	30	26	29	18
11:15 a.m. Service at church	32	33	51	52	46
* Remote viewing	10	14	6	6	4
Total Attendance	121	129	139	138	125

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 August 2021

2nd - Jim & Belinda Wright (30 yrs)
 3rd - Karra Beard
 Mary Maess
 5th - David Bryson
 Ty Raines
 7th - Sarah Harris
 Fred & Cathy Brown (55 yrs)
 9th - Phil Blue
 11th - Bev Brubaker
 12th - Jerid Raines
 13th - Jayce Lawhorn
 15th - Tammy Lugabihl
 Dustin & Chelsi Jay (6 yrs)



17th - Wayne Spitler
 20th - Shirley Garreth
 Scott Johnston
 Richard Smith
 21st - Pastor Robbie Scott
 22nd - Lilly Pritchard
 24th - Dean Bryson
 Chris Harris
 27th - Janet Willis
 28th - Dick & Mary Ann Martens (61 yrs)
 30th - John & Pam Hitchcock (18 yrs)
 Emily Benkert
 31st - Katie Poling

People to remember in prayer:



Hoffman Sympathies: to the family of Betty Castle as she passed away on June 26, 2021
to the family of Katie Weeks as she passed away on June 27, 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 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

Thanks to everyone who donated items, helped setup or cleanup or shopped at the rummage sale. It was a big success raising \$836! We donated the remaining items to the Buckeye House, The ReStore, Gleaning Place, Well of Hope Shoes, and Ludlow Falls Christian Church.

Thank you for all the prayers and cards following my rotator cuff surgery. Everything is going well!
Prayers & Blessings, Carol Storer

“The Holy Spirit and You”

Women’s Bible Study

Thursdays, Sept 2nd thru Oct 7th 6:30 –8 p.m.

Who is this Holy Spirit? He is that small voice within you reminding you that you are the adopted child of the King of Kings.

A sign-up sheet is on the table outside the church office, Questions? Call Mary Ann Martens (937)-3043

Art Show

Show Hours: July 30th - 6:30 to 8 p.m., July 31st
10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Aug. 1st 11a.m. to 3 p.m.

Annual Hoffman UMC Picnic – Sunday, August 1st

from 2:30p.m. to ? at the home of Marty and Wendy Black at 5839 S Jay Road, W. Milton. Swimming begins at 2:30 – so dress accordingly. Dinner at 5:30. Please bring a covered dish to share and a folding chair. Meat, condiments, table service and drinks provided. Questions - call Mike C. (937) 623-5731

Prayer Walk at Milton-Union Schools
August 22nd at 4pm meet at the school library

Blessing of the Backpacks
at both services on August 22nd.

Men’s Group

The men’s group will be meeting on Tuesday, August 17th at 6:30 p.m. in the basement. Plan to join us. Questions . . . contact Chris Long 937.719.3257

GRANDMA’S KITCHEN August 2021 MENU (Carryout Only – No Dine In)

Website: HoffmanUMC.org Carryout pickup 5:00 to 6:00

Aug 11th (2nd Wednesday)
Barbecue Chicken
Mac and Cheese
Slaw
Watergate Salad

Aug 25th (4th Wednesday)
Beef and Noodles
Mashed Potatoes
Corn
Cherry Trifle

(Menu items are subject to change)

Additional Announcements

Chancel Choir

We are finally going to have choir again. PRAISE GOD! We will have our first choir rehearsal on Wednesday, September 8th at 7:00PM, SHARP. Everyone is invited to come join this celebration of praises to God. We will be in the choir loft on Sunday, September 12th. Come join the fun as we lift our voices to praise God. If you have any questions, please see or call Norman Hiester at 698-3280 or 689-4064.

Bell Choir

It is also time for bell choir so I am looking for people willing to ring a couple bells every week. There is a lot of fun and good fellowship at these rehearsals so come join us. Our first rehearsal will be Tuesday, September 14th at 6:30. Anyone interested please give Norman Hiester a call at 698-3280 or 689-4064.



Grandma's Kitchen Says, "Come on in!"

Grandma's Kitchen is planning to start dine-in meals on **September 15th**. We hope to have everything "back to normal" with hot and cold beverages, smiling servers at the steam table and flowers on the tables. If you have gotten used to the carry-out meals, we will have those, too. Please let friends, neighbors and family know as we would love to have you all back around the tables.

August meals, the 11th and the 25th, will still be carry-out only. If you have questions, please call Marilyn Mitchell. 937-947-1831.

Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study

The Wednesday Morning women's group has been having a very informal meeting format for the past year. This has included discussion of various articles contributed by those in attendance and a time of prayer for people, concerns and issues.

However, starting on September 15, we hope to begin a "regular" Bible study, similar to the ones this group has done in the past. We will begin at 9:00am and plan to meet in the Multi-Purpose room for approximately 90 minutes. All women are welcome, including those who do not attend Hoffman. Please Marilyn Mitchell (937-947-1831) or the church (937-698-4401) if you are interested or have questions. As no fall study has been chosen yet, we welcome your recommendations.

Future-Seekers Class Bible Study

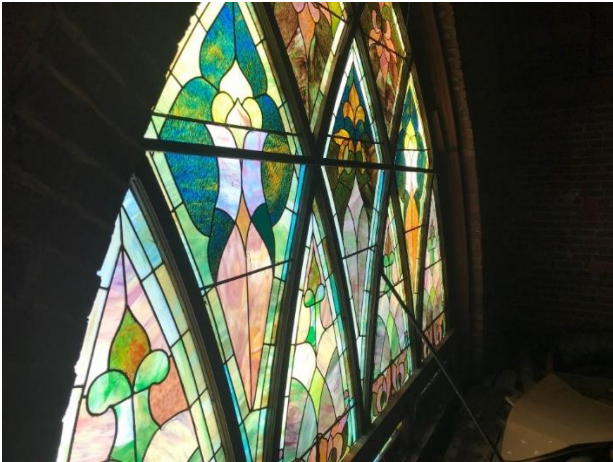
The Future-Seekers Sunday School class will be starting a new Bible study September 12. All adults are welcome to join us in the "small" room in the basement from 10:15 to 11:00 each Sunday morning. We have explored a variety of subjects this summer including "100 Bible Verses that Made America" by Robert J. Morgan, the book of Jonah through Vernon J. McGee's "Thru the Bible" series as well as various current events topics. If you have questions or suggestions, please call Marilyn Mitchell, 937-947-1831. Please consider joining us on Sunday mornings!

Hoffman Stained Glass Window Restoration Project Update

July 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: Through July 25th, we have had \$73,345 contributed to the stained glass window restoration fund, with a pledge to sponsor one additional window for a total of \$80,055, or 73% of the \$109,430 projected cost. Thank you to everyone that has donated to the window restoration fund and thank you to the Miltonian Women's Club, the Methodist Women, the Methodist Men, and Grandma's kitchen for their donations and helping us to restore our windows. Please prayerfully consider sponsoring a window or donating any amount to help us reach our goal of \$109,430. A memorial plaque recognizing the sponsor of the window will be added if desired. The work should be completed by late August or mid-September. Please call David Jay at 937-698-6412 if you have any questions.



Large East Window



Gap between glass and frame

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	Sponsored
4 Sanctuary, North Wall, 3 rd	Sponsored	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	Sponsored	15 South Tower, East Wall, High	\$7,250
7 Sanctuary, South Wall, 2 nd	Sponsored	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!

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



VBS Summer 2021

We had an absolute blast this year! Thank you so much for your donations of supplies and money. We were able to give all of the student's shirts for free!! We are so blessed to have such an amazing congregation!



****Next year's VBS... June 26-30th!!****

Special Dates to Note:

August 1 - Church picnic
August 22- Blessings of the Backpacks and Prayer Walk at Milton-Union Schools
August 23- Teacher Luncheon

Traditional Service 9AM

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Sunday School Hour

10:15-11:10AM

...

Open Door Service

11:15AM

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

Month at-a-glance

August 1

Youth invited to Church Picnic

2:30 Swim

5:30 Dinner

August 8

6-8 at Knostman's

August 15

6-8 Bonfire at Knostman's

August 22

6-8 at Knostman's

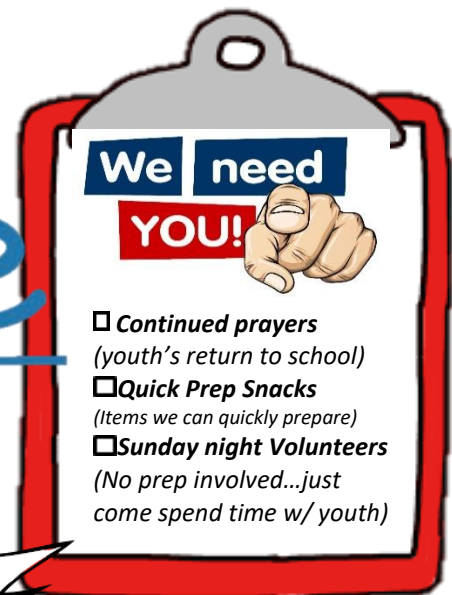
August 29

Canoeing to welcome new 6th graders



STAY CONNECTED

Text @hofignite to 81010
to receive weekly messages



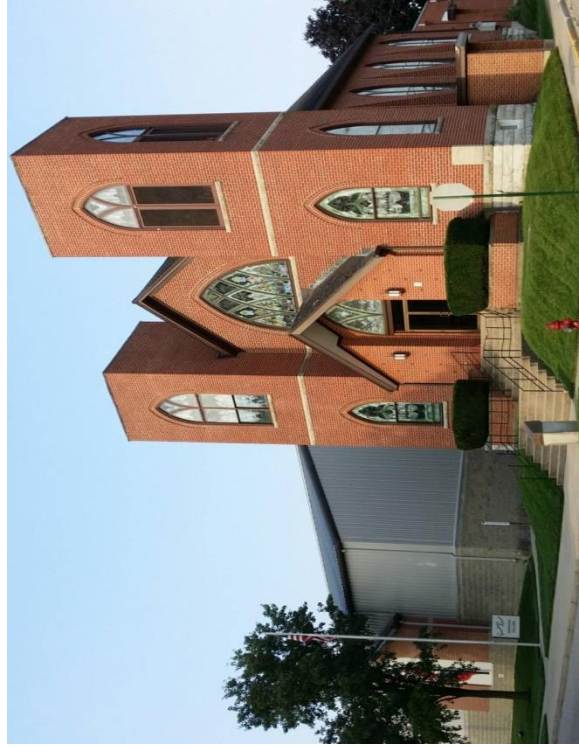
- ☐ **Continued prayers**
(youth's return to school)
- ☐ **Quick Prep Snacks**
(Items we can quickly prepare)
- ☐ **Sunday night Volunteers**
(No prep involved...just come spend time w/ youth)

Youth Director: Joseph Knostman
josephknostman@hoffmanumc.org
937-573-7212

Return Service Requested

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

August
2021

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