



# THE TOWERS

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

September 2021



## A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

### *God at Work in the Dark*

**Psalm 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.**

I am certain it will be no surprise to you that there are things that we don't "see" until it finally grabs our attention. It can be that way with the design of our homes or vehicles, or sounds, or even people. I will every so often challenge us to "see" someone that the world seems to be ignoring. These are examples we all have our blind spots. I was surprised to notice such a thing with themes in Scripture. I've made no secret of my enjoyment of the contrast of light vs darkness in the Bible, and have often come back to that theme in various ways. However, something that slipped by my notice, was the work of God IN darkness.



I often speak of God's timing and how convenient grace is at work before we are aware of it. It is also true that when we go through difficult times we may not be as aware of God's work and presence, but lack of awareness denies not its power. The picture I included is a scene that my daughter and I photographed during vacation. I had for years wanted to take night pictures of the Gateway Arch, but time and opportunity had not intertwined on previous trips. There was also the issue of the park where this view is possible. When last we saw it in daylight, it looked rough, and had warnings about not defecating on the buildings...ew. The view across the river was glorious, however, so after reading some recent google map reviews that made it sound like it was safe for nighttime public visitors, we made the trip.

This was one of the many highlights of our time away, but it did remind me that I do "want" to see light at work IN darkness. The pictures I shared many months ago of the Hoffman sanctuary lights at night were intended to encourage in this way.

Recently then, I was surprised to notice the number of

times in Scripture that God, the Author of light, is at work IN the darkness. This work was in various types of darkness, I might add. You and I both know that darkness isn't just about our physical world, but also impacts our spiritual and emotional worlds, as well.

In recent weeks I sheepishly noticed the reality of the familiar passage I shared at the beginning of this writing. How nice it is how the psalmist shares that God's word is a lamp to our feet and path...but that means by necessity it is at work in darkness. We don't need lamps during brightly lit times. But we certainly notice and need them when we are in the dark! Sometimes when it comes to God, we need reminders that God is at work at all times, even when we are in great darkness, or if you

prefer, "in the valley of the shadow of death."

And so, these last couple Sundays I have been sharing in worship some passages and stories from the Bible showing God at work in the dark, when characters we either remember or are being introduced to receive help from God in a moment of darkness. As one who was afraid of the dark when he was a child, my suspicion is there is someone suffering from fear in their own time of darkness, and I pray these accounts will serve as reminders to encourage us on our journey together. Speaking of encouragement, allow me to share one more passage reminding us of how God sees our darkness.

**Psalm 139:11-12 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," 12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you..**

No matter the darkness you are going through, I pray you are able to see God at work in the dark. While remembering God's work of light in times of my darkness,

I am,

In His service and yours



## Board Meeting Highlights

### Devotions

Devotions were offered by Dick. He shared from a daily devotional "Being Still with God" by Blackaby. "I must decrease" referencing Matthew 3:1-12. Dick opened the meeting with prayer.

### Meeting Attendees

Katie Poling, Dick Martens, Carol Storer, Julia Circle, John Ankerman, Patti Wion, Janet Benkert, and Pastor Robbie Scott

### Mission and Ministry

Joseph shared an update on his work with the youth. The youth have been meeting at his home which has improved the construct of the meetings, focusing more on the conversation and discussion versus the "presentation and activity" at church. Has had a rotation of help. He is looking for support with prayers, snacks and continued adult support. Attendance has fluctuated between 8-12. July 27- Sexuality Retreat planned- discussion of what the Bible says about sex  
August 13,14- Family Campout Huston Woods- 12 families scheduled

### Pastor's Report

The average attendance for June was 129. Greeter and Usher rotation is starting back up. The offering for the Open Door Service will remain as a plate by the door. VBS preparations are going well. Close to 60 are registered. The July 4th Parade float went very well. Robbie has been working on learning the app that is the companion to our directory. Future

projects: Safe Sanctuary Training re-recorded and uploaded, Membership Class, Invitation for baptisms. Sunday July 25th scheduled for VBS worship.

### Trustees

The stained glass repair project funding is up to 67%. The basement sump pump was replaced.

### Finance

The Finance report was reviewed and accepted. June's monthly giving is the lowest for the year.

### Nominations

The committee is looking for replacement for 4 positions.

### Upcoming Events

Aug 22 MU Prayer Walk

Aug 23 Teacher Luncheon

Oct 3 World Communion Sunday and Fall Carry-In

Nov 2 Election Day Dinner

Nov 20 Craft Show

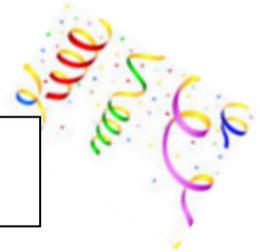
## Serving Schedule

**Sep 5<sup>th</sup>** – Altar flowers are in memory of my father, Art Curry from Tina Mathews  
**9:00 Liturgist:** Mike Circle                      **Greeters:** Wendy Heisey and Nancy Lightcap  
**Ushers:**  
**Nursery:** **10:15** Patti W. & Jenna M. / **11:15** Julia C. & Wendy H.  
**11:15 Greeters:** Ben G., Julia C., & Kathy K.                      **Scripture Reader:** Julia C.

**Sep 12<sup>th</sup>** – Altar flowers are available  
**9:00 Liturgist:** Tim Benkert                      **Greeters:** Jeryl-Ann Kassa  
**Ushers:**  
**Nursery:** **10:15** Lesli R. & Kat G. / **11:15** Lesli R. & Lauren E.  
**11:15 Greeters:** Dick & Mary Ann M.                      **Scripture Reader:** Valarie M

**Sep 19<sup>th</sup>** – Altar flowers are available  
**9:00 Liturgist:** Les Trittschuh                      **Greeters:** Elaine Iddings  
**Ushers:**  
**Nursery:** **10:15** Julia C. & Kathy K. / **11:15** Ben G. & Jenna M.  
**11:15 Greeters:** Kathy W. and Amanda B.                      **Scripture Reader:** Tim B.

**Sep 26<sup>th</sup>** – Altar flowers are available  
**9:00 Liturgist:** Wendy Heisey                      **Greeters:** Carol Storer and Peggy Nihizer  
**Ushers:**  
**Nursery:** **10:15** Jennifer K. & Jill C. / **11:15** Jennifer K. & Kim D.  
**11:15 Greeters:** Paul & Sally M. and Marijo Schlecht                      **Scripture Reader:** Matt B.



**Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary  
September 2021**

3<sup>rd</sup> - Bradley Brown  
Mary Ann Martens  
Jim & Marilyn Mitchell (49 yrs)  
7<sup>th</sup> - Paul & Sally Miller (58 yrs)  
10<sup>th</sup> - Monica Studebaker  
David & Dawn Jay (38 yrs)  
11<sup>th</sup> - Kathy Koeller  
Jaydan Lawhorn  
12<sup>th</sup> - Susie Spitler  
13<sup>th</sup> - Rev. Tim Benkert  
Norman & Joy Paulus (62 yrs)  
14<sup>th</sup> - Megan Bryson



15<sup>th</sup> - Stella Blackburn  
16<sup>th</sup> - Matthew & Amanda Burns (21 yrs)  
18<sup>th</sup> - Belinda Wright  
23<sup>rd</sup> - David Jay  
Monica Winemiller  
24<sup>th</sup> - Sally Blue  
Kathy Hagemeyer  
Karen Randall  
Michael & Amy Barnes (16 yrs)  
Greg & Bev Brubaker (54 yrs)  
27<sup>th</sup> - Martin & Wendy Black (18 yrs)  
29<sup>th</sup> - Bethany Benkert

## Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	7-25-21	8-1-21	8-8-21	8-15-21
General Offering	2872.00	6347.00	3756.00	4409.00
Weekly Budget Need	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00
Mission Offering	125.00	290.00	330.00	100.00
Maintenance Fund	160.00	580.00	225.00	25.00
Building Fund & Memorials	45.00	408.00	95.00	35.00
Stained Glass Windows	6270.00	1250.00	5.00	5.00
Online & Physical Attendance				
9 a.m. Service at church	73	48	50	43
* Remote viewing	15	17	22	25
11:15 a.m. Service at church	59	39	40	48
* Remote viewing	7	3	8	4
Total Attendance	154	107	120	120



*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.

### **GRANDMA'S KITCHEN SEPTEMBER 2021 MENU**

SERVING the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING AT 5:00 to 6:15 P.M.

PUBLIC INVITED CARRY-OUTS AVAILABLE \$7 DONATION PER MEAL Kids Meal \$3

**We are open for carryout and in-house dining**

#### September 15th

**Baked Spaghetti  
Tossed Salad  
Garlic Bread  
Ice Cream Sundae**

#### September 29th

**Swiss Chicken Bake  
Mashed Potatoes  
Peas  
Cake**

**Menu items are subject to change**

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

Grandma's Kitchen is planning to offer dine-in meals on **September 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**. 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. If you have questions, please call Marilyn Mitchell, 937-947-1831.

## People to remember in prayer:



**Hoffman Sympathies:** to the family of Dave Burns, Matt's dad, as he passed away on July 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 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

Thank you for the prayers, cards, and calls during my continuing medical journey. You are all appreciated so very much. *Nancy Lightcap*

### Stained Glass Window Restoration Project

Amount Received: \$ 74,605  
Total Project Goal: \$ 109,430 *Thank You!*

### Chancel Choir

We will have our first choir rehearsal on Wednesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup>. Come join the fun as we lift our voices to praise God Questions, please see or call Norman Hiester at 937-698-3280 or 937-689-4064.

### 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 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. Anyone interested please give Norman Hiester a call at 937-698-3280 or 937-689-4064.

### Future-Seekers Adult Sunday School Class New Study Series September 12<sup>th</sup> to October 24<sup>th</sup> "Thriving in Babylon" by Larry Osborne

These are confusing times for many Christians. Traditional biblical values are not only rejected; it seems as if they're attacked on every front. It's all happened at warp speed, leaving many of us spiritually and culturally disoriented or even fearful, frustrated, and angry. How can we spiritually survive in an increasingly spiritually hostile environment? And is there any hope for the next generation?

In this 5-session video series, Larry Osborne introduces us to a man forced to live in a fast-changing and godless society. This man faced fears about the future, concern for his safety, and the discouragement of a world that seemed to be falling apart at warp speed. That man was Daniel, and with the power of hope, humility, and wisdom, he not only survived, but thrived. Each session also includes real-life stories of people struggling to thrive in an ever-increasing godless society. Though Daniel lived thousands of years ago, he has much to teach us today. Handouts and study guides will be provided in class.

The Future-Seekers class meets in the basement in the 'small' room from 10:15 until 11:00. Please join us for this short video series from Right Now Media. If you have questions, please call Marilyn Mitchell, 937-947-1831.

### Women's Wednesday Morning Bible Study New Series September 15<sup>th</sup> through November 17<sup>th</sup> "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World" by Joanna Weaver

Join author Joanna Weaver as she explores how to blend a close relationship with Jesus and service for Jesus in the midst of our busy lives. Moving chapter by chapter through Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World, Joanna invites us to recognize that each of us has some Mary and some Martha within. Every day, a part of us wants to leave our tasks and soak up time with Jesus. Yet we also know we can't abandon our responsibilities.

Come discover the best of your Mary and Martha desires as you strengthen your relationship with the God who invites you closer. This is a 10-part video series with a participant's guide to be used in class and then also for personal study during the week. (We will discuss the guide at the first meeting.) Please join us from 9:00-10:30 on Wednesday mornings starting September 15. Questions, please call Marilyn Mitchell, 937-947-1831.

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 West Milton OH 45383

September  
 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