



# THE TOWERS

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

November 2021



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Choosing Gratitude

**1** Thessalonians 5:15-22 **Make sure that nobody pays back wrong for wrong, but always try to be kind to each other and to everyone else. 16 Be joyful always; 17 pray continually; 18 give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 19 Do not put out the Spirit's fire; 20 do not treat prophecies with contempt. 21 Test everything. Hold on to the good. 22 Avoid every kind of evil.**

I was touched recently as a member shared an internal struggle with regard to health. There were things that were not right, and there was an ever present frustration with waiting for health situations to finally straighten out...and at the same time there was a friend who had the same condition but had died with very little warning. There was still the frustration, but there was also great thankfulness for the opportunity to have the frustration to live with. I remember thinking to myself, "yeah, it has felt something like that." I have found myself struggling to give thanks in all circumstances. Maybe you have, too. Some of these circumstances have cost time, resources, relationships, even lives. How on earth can I give thanks in all circumstances? The short answer is that regardless of the circumstance, there is always much to be thankful for, even in the valley of the shadow of death. (talk about an understatement of easier said than done!)

So much of our current reality is not what we wanted or chose, but was forced upon us. The last 17 months have included so many health challenges for the world, and have forced many changes in how we interact with the world around us. It has been an incredibly frustrating time, even an angry time. We certainly are free to be angry, even though sometimes I admittedly have felt I'm not free to be. But just as I am tempted to give someone a piece of my mind that I likely cannot spare, I remember Paul's instruction in Galatians, **Galatians 5:13-14 "You... were called to be free. But do**

**not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"**

Last month I wrote of difficult decisions and circumstances around the church, and this month I find myself reminded to choose to be thankful for all the things I so easily overlook, as well as for the opportunities these challenges have brought.



The picture I have included this month is a view of the upper stained glass windows in our south tower. They likely have been viewed from the inside by only a handful of members over the last 50 years, maybe even the last 100 years. This window refurbishment work we were somewhat forced into has granted us a visual of the inside of the tower that has lifted spirits in ways words cannot describe. The workers who removed thousands

of pounds of concrete and plaster that had been suspended in the tower over the "welcome center" told us there were several chunks that would have started falling through the ceiling in the relatively near future. The online streaming some of you have heard me complain about has given access to worship to those without the option of attending in person.

There is much to be thankful for in a season full of challenges. We are even thankful to be free to choose whether to be thankful or not. Look at that first Scripture again. Be Joyful...Pray...Give Thanks. 3 "simple" steps to fulfill God's will in Jesus Christ. I hope to encourage all who will "listen" to keep on keeping on. May it be that all of us strive to fulfill God's law through our love. Thank you for the many expressions of love, care, and prayer shared during staff appreciation month. I am terrible at properly responding to such acts, but I cherished each one. Have a blessed and joyous Thanksgiving.

While trying to choose thankfulness, I am,  
In His service and yours,



## Board Meeting Highlights

### Devotions

Devotions were offered by Patti Wion who shared from a series on "Repentance" by Rick Warren offering Biblical ways of overcoming temptation. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Patti.

### Meeting Attendees

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

### Mission and Ministry

There was a discussion of the missionaries section of the Missions Budget. A suggestion was made to redirect funds to a missionary that is from our church family.

Consideration to redirect money to be made on a yearly basis. This recommendation will be taken back to the Missions Team for action.

### Pastor's Report

August overall average 122. Norman has restarted choir and bell choir. The Prayer Walk and Teacher Luncheon were both successful. The luncheon served 150-200 staff and was greatly appreciated. Becky plans Children's Church for 2<sup>nd</sup> service beginning in Sept. Oct 23 is planned for pumpkin carving. Becky was honored by Dayton Daily News as a Community Gem. Joseph and the youth started a new RightNow Media study. Plans are in the works for Trunk-or-Treat. Charge Conference is confirmed for Nov 18. Pastor Robbie will serve as presiding elder over part time congregation Charge Conferences this year. Some difficulties have been noted with FaceBook livestream, Pastor Robbie and Kat will continue to work through them. The first Grandma's Kitchen was a success using fewer tables and multiple carryouts. Jim Mitchell is attending the Legal forum this year using the virtual option. Conversation ongoing regarding youth Sunday School

class restart. We have a current volunteer crisis. We need a more formalized list of where volunteers are needed. We held a discussion about attendance tracking and would like help with logging info on Church Tracker. The 2021 Progress Report of Breakthrough Goals was shared.

### Trustees

A summary of finances, South Tower project, Boiler Replacement, Stained Glass restoration was given.

#### 2021:

- Restoration of Stained-Glass Windows= \$109,430
- Replaced 43-year-old boiler with 2 high efficiency units= \$32,839
- Paint and insulate South Tower

#### 2022 Plans:

- Paint old garage= \$1500

### Finance

The finance report for August was reviewed and accepted. We have 6.78 Weeks of Operations available. John shared a comparison of income, expenses and budget totals for 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021. The 2022 Proposed General Budget Comparison was available for review in print. The 2022 Budget, with 2% staff salary increase, was approved. Total \$252,955 with asterisks next to items that will have final updates. The Pledge Card distributed the Towers was available for review

### Upcoming Events

- Oct 3 World Communion Sunday/Fall Carry-In
- Oct 17 Pledge Sunday; CROP Walk
- Oct 25 UMW Mtg 7:00pm
- Oct 28 Trunk-or-Treat 6-8
- Nov 2 Election Day Dinner
- Nov 13 Veterans Day Program
- Nov 18 Charge Conference, 7:30pm
- Nov 20 Craft Show



## Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	9-26-21	10-3-21	10-10-21	10-17-21
General Offering	3462.00	3544.00	6691.00	5424.00
Weekly Budget Need	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00	4854.00
Mission Offering	190.00	190.00	250.00	170.00
Maintenance Fund	180.00	685.00	170.00	130.00
Building Fund & Memorials	140.00	585.00	148.00	55.00
Stained Glass Windows	7085.00	100.00	.00	.00
Online & Physical Attendance				
9 a.m. Service at church	46	49	55	53
* Remote viewing	20	18	29	22
11:15 a.m. Service at church	42	46	42	47
* Remote viewing	1	4	5	2
Total Attendance	109	117	131	124



**Stained Glass Window Restoration Project**  
 Received: \$83.925    Project Goal: \$109.430 Thank You!

## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

**161<sup>st</sup> Chicken Pot Pie Election Day Dinner**  
**Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4:30 to 7 p.m.**  
 Homemade chicken pot pie, mashed potatoes, green beans, slaw, dinner roll, assorted desserts, plus a beverage \$7.50 donation Dine in or carry out

**'The Holy Spirit and You' Women's Bible Study** resumes Thursdays, Nov 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**Remember to set your clocks back 1 hour before going to bed on Saturday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> .**

**\*Winter Walking Group** starting November 8<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays thru April 28<sup>th</sup>. Contact Elaine Pickering (937) 698-5192

**Honoring All Union Township Veterans**  
**Saturday, November 13, 2021 @ 2 p.m.**  
 In the activity center: the public is invited!

**Church Charge Conference** will be held November 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. after the Church Board meeting at 6:30 p.m.

**CPR Class** offered on Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup> in the Activity Center from 6:30 to 9 p.m. Adult, infant and child CPR is being offered. You can attend FREE if you don't need a card. Cost with card: \$32. If you took the class in October 2019 your card is soon to expire. Sign-up sheet is on table outside church office. Contact Jim or Belinda Wright for more information (937)947-1479.

**Hoffman's Annual Craft Show**  
**Saturday, November 20<sup>th</sup> from 9am – 3pm**  
 Our booth will need lots of crafts and homemade goodies or canning items to sell. The Hoffman's Café will be looking for bakers, kitchen help & other volunteer opportunities, and we need extra hands to help prepare for the craft show and tear down after 3pm on Saturday. If you know of a crafter who would be interested in a booth, please have them call Tina at 937-719-3245, the women's booth call Susie 937-698-6798, and the Hoffman Café call Kay at 937-332-0345.



**People to remember in prayer:**



**Hoffman Sympathies:** to the family of Bob Bryson, Bruce's father, as he passed away on October 2, 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 YOUS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Thank you** for the delicious dinner you served for my family after my husband's funeral; it was greatly appreciated. Sincerely, Becky Wolf

**Thanks** Hoffman family for remembering me with your prayers, kind words, cards, and gifts during staff appreciation month. You are such a blessing, JoAnn

**Hoffman UMC Family Christmas Party  
 Saturday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.**

Carry-in Meal (Main Dish provided), family activities and entertainment, check your email for a sign-up link or watch for a clipboard.

**Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts** deadline is November 21st . See information on table in lobby

**Christmas Staff Gifts** will be presented to the staff at the December 4<sup>th</sup> Christmas party in appreciation for all their hard work. Please be generous with your support and mark your donation "Staff Gifts" by Nov 28<sup>th</sup> Thank you for your contribution. Carol S. & Dan S. SPRC

**Updated HUMC phone directories** are ready; pickup up your copy, they are by each bulletin box in the sanctuary.



**SHARE A POINSETTIA**

It is time to order poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary during the Christmas service. They will be displayed on Christmas Eve and can be picked up after the 10 p.m. Christmas Eve service. If you wish to share with us, please fill out the form and return it with your payment by Sunday, Dec. 5th. Our supplier is Stockslager's and the cost is \$8 each. Make checks payable to Hoffman U.M.C.

(Please Print Names Carefully)

How Many

Total Price

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

White \_\_\_\_\_ x \$8.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Red \_\_\_\_\_ x \$8.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Given By \_\_\_\_\_

Marble \_\_\_\_\_ x \$8.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

(We may have to substitute color choice.)

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



**We had a great Pumpkin Night! Thanks to everyone who came and made it a great evening!**

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes are due **Nov. 21!** Look at the table in the lobby for a special page to put in the box from your child to the child that gets the box.

**Special Dates to Note:**

We will start our Christmas caroling practice on November 7. We are all invited to the Church Christmas Party on December 4 to participate in the caroling.

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



**VETERANS DAY**



**HONORING ALL WHO SERVED**



**HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2021 FINANCE REPORT**

**General Budget and Missions Budget**

**September 30, 2021**

		<b>MONTH</b>	<b>YEAR-TO-DATE</b>
1010	First Sunday	5,346.00	48,444.04
1020	Second Sunday	4,787.00	43,535.09
1030	Third Sunday	5,842.00	37,829.00
1040	Fourth Sunday	3,462.00	32,037.01
1050	Fifth Sunday	0.00	9,425.00
<b>Total Regular Offering</b>		<b>19,437.00</b>	<b>171,270.14</b>
1060	Misc. Income	125.00	1,282.00
<b>**Total Income</b>		<b>19,562.00</b>	<b>172,552.14</b>

		<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	13,912.00	4,635.00
2	District Adm. Apportionments	2,693.00	224.00	2,021.00	672.00
<b>Total Local Apportionments</b>		<b>21,240.00</b>	<b>1,769.00</b>	<b>15,933.00</b>	<b>5,307.00</b>
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	0.00	483.55	516.45
6	Music	750.00	0.00	606.00	144.00
7	Media Subscriptions	2,000.00	191.26	1,975.87	24.13
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
<b>Total Council of Ministries</b>		<b>5,250.00</b>	<b>191.26</b>	<b>3,065.42</b>	<b>2,184.58</b>

**OFFICE SUPPLY & FINANCE**

11	Finance & Stewardship	900.00	0.00	356.21	543.79
12	Office Supplies & Postage	4,000.00	436.62	2,275.40	1,724.60
<b>Total Administrative &amp; Other Minist</b>		<b>4,900.00</b>	<b>436.62</b>	<b>2,631.61</b>	<b>2,268.39</b>

13	Pastor Parish	250.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
14	Staff Salary	122,740.51	8,995.44	88,305.54	34,434.97
15	Health Ins. & Pension	39,321.30	3,330.21	29,536.56	9,784.74
16	Acct. Reimbursement-Pastor	4,000.00	114.38	1,262.60	2,737.40
17	Hoffman Family Benevolence	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
18	Pulpit Supply	500.00	0.00	300.00	200.00
19	Employer Payroll Taxes	6,121.12	401.17	4,086.52	2,034.60
20	Moving Allowance	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
21	Lakeside Conf Deligate	550.00	0.00	0.00	550.00
<b>Total Staff &amp; Parish Relations</b>		<b>174,782.93</b>	<b>12,841.20</b>	<b>124,491.22</b>	<b>50,291.71</b>

22	Maintenance	1,500.00	155.21	996.90	503.10
23	Utilities	31,092.00	1,567.35	15,922.80	15,169.20
24	Building Insurance	4,868.00	0.00	3,694.00	1,174.00
25	Real Estate Taxes Parsonage	2,980.00	0.00	2,960.82	19.18
26	Snow Plowing & Yard Work	4,800.00	585.00	4,619.50	180.50
27	Supplies	1,000.00	4.28	345.59	654.41
<b>Total Trustees</b>		<b>46,240.00</b>	<b>2,311.84</b>	<b>28,539.61</b>	<b>17,700.39</b>

**\*\*Total General Budgeted Expenses**      252,412.93      17,549.92      174,660.86      77,752.07

**MISSIONS BUDGET**

28	Conference - World Services	5,000.00	416.50	3,750.50	1,249.50
29	District Mission Apportionments	2,584.00	215.00	1,939.00	645.00
30	MU Council of Churches	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00
31	Annual Mission Project	600.00	50.00	450.00	150.00
32	Advanced Specials	547.50	0.00	0.00	547.50
<b>Total Budgeted Missions Expense</b>		<b>8,981.50</b>	<b>681.50</b>	<b>6,389.50</b>	<b>2,592.00</b>

X

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



Return Service Requested

X



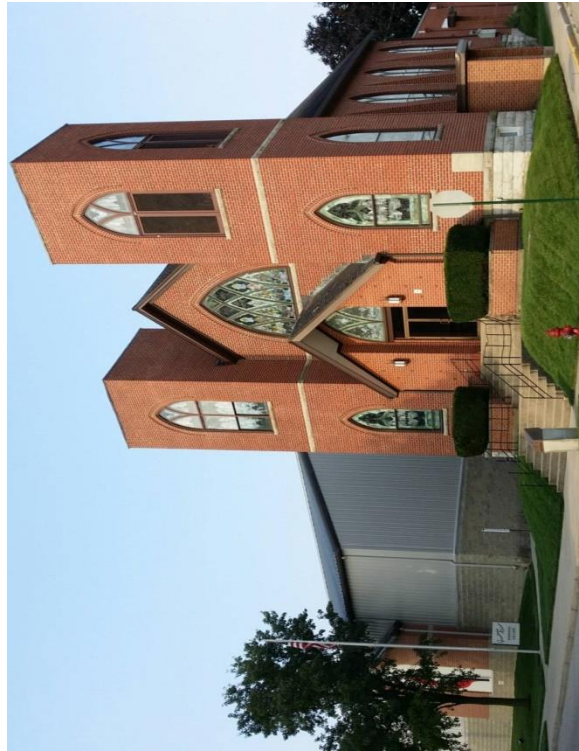
201 S Main Street  
 West Milton OH 45383

November  
 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