

THE TOWERS

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

February 2020

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

God-Sight

Mark 8:17-18 ¹⁷ Aware of their discussion, Jesus asked them: "Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not see or understand? Are your hearts hardened?" ¹⁸ Do you have eyes but fail to see, and ears but fail to hear? And don't you remember?

A younger, slimmer version of myself recorded a video called "Jesus is in Our Boat" while rowing around a small lake in Kentucky. If you look up that title with "Pastor Robbie" you should find it pretty easily. Recently I have looked at this passage more through the lens of sight. My eyesight has been one of the many blessings of my life. No matter what else you read on this page that might sound accidentally like I'm "complaining," please know that I know I am blessed. From my childhood I have had good, or even Very Good eyesight, better than 20/20. Looking back, I could see how that blessed me in countless ways. Thought I am not known for being a detail oriented person, I think of all the negatives and snapshots I looked through when I worked in a photo lab, while also a photographer. I could see even on a negative when an image wasn't quite sharp enough, or on the snapshot I could spot an eye blink on the back row of the group picture... I loved being able to see the sharp details that made one picture just that little bit better than another.

I have noticed a change over the last couple years. I have had more difficulty seeing some things clearly. My son would hold something up to my face in order to show me something, and with a look of frustration I would push his arm farther away until the item would actually look like Something, and not just some blurry mass. Many ingredient labels have necessitated the bathroom lights to be able to read it, and items with "fine print" require me to take a picture of it with my phone, and then pinch zoom to see if I can make out the words. My eyes are not as good as they once were. The good news is, they still aren't so bad, still test pretty close to

20/20...but I don't see things as I once did. Because I do so much reading and working on a computer, I have been fitted for reading glasses for the first time. I think younger me would have fought this, but "this" me took a look through some of the testing tools and went "oh wow, Yeah, that is MUCH clearer." Therefore 😊

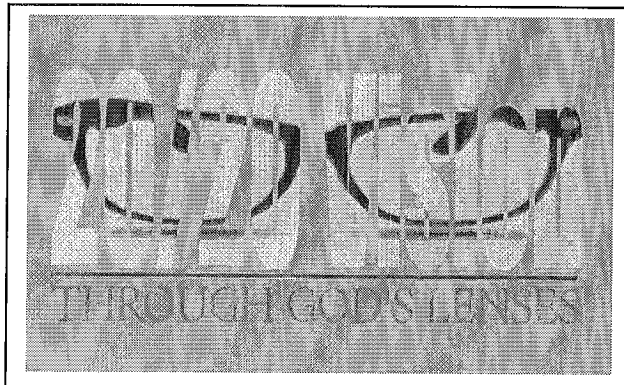
I now step gingerly into this phase of my life, a stage where the statement "where are my glasses?" will likely be heard on a regular basis, but also a stage where I will again see clearly.

I was already planning to have some kind of 2020 Vision series this year because, well, it is 2020, and there are probably countless pastors either who have already gone that direction, or are working on it currently. My particular "take" on this series is

about the Standard...What if we measured our vision not against "normal," but against the standard of God's Vision? Of course, you, me, anyone, we all fall short of that standard, but what about a series that reminds us in various ways that God sees the world and people differently than we sometimes do? What if the topics and scriptures bring to light things that our eyes haven't "seen" before? What if we could see the world and the people around us in a way more similar to how God sees them? Maybe there will even be opportunities to "see" God at work all around us in ways we never noticed before. This is my particular hope, as the Old Testament, the Gospels and the Epistles often ask..."Do you have eyes but do not see?" As you well know, the question has nothing to do with physical eyesight, but a lack of awareness, or stubbornness, or failure to recognize what is displeasing to God. Just as I welcomed Dr. Poling to help clear my physical vision, I pray we will invite God to help correct our spiritual vision.

With eyes open to see the kingdom work of God going on all around us, I am,

In Christ's Service and Yours,



Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions Devotions were led by Dick. He shared a reading from "Our Daily Bread". Luke 2:1-10. "Good news and great joy"

Meeting Attendees

Dick Martens, Katie Poling, Janet Benkert, Les Trittschuh, David Jay, Cindy Johnston, Carol Storer, Richard Smith, Julia Circle and Pastor Robbie Scott

Mission and Ministry: Legal forum reflection submitted by Jim Mitchell. He suggests examining our insurance policy, making sure there are no holes in the policy (liability needs). Perhaps the church would be best served by a church based company.

Pastor's Report

Average attendance for November was 167. Joann is submitting Charge Conference paperwork and working on year-end reports. The combined 29th worship service will feature Norman playing selected carols. Becky had a successful Children's Program with the help of Tim and Janet Benkert. Ignite will host "The Annual Feast" on December 15th. Becky and Joseph are reworking their shared office space. Bookcase and file cabinets may transition to Norman. Joseph is designing a wall cubby for their supplies. Scott family vacation Jan 17-20 (Pulpit fill Jan 19 Dick). Robbie will then complete his yearly Board of Ordained Ministry work. Possible membership class February. Discussion about volunteers to answer phones during Joann's vacations. Next series, "2020 Vision" in brainstorm with Tim Benkert. Kessler missionary update available for review in print.

Finance

The finance report for November was reviewed and accepted. Richard updated there is now 7.15 weeks of reserve. 2020 General Fund Budget was reviewed and approved with an Amendment: 2% increase for Pastor salary.

Nominations

Finance Chair- John Ankerman approved.

SPRC Co Chair- TBD

Staff Parish Relations

Contemporary Worship Coordinator job description was available for review.

Trustee Update

Current trustee fund balance will decrease substantially due to furnace replacement. People have started giving to the stained glass window repair. It has been a very busy maintenance year.

Consent Agenda

\$ 7,630 for furnace repair/replacement in the activity center was discussed and approved.

Serving Schedule

Feb 02nd — Altar flowers are in memory of Martha Farmer from Tina Mathews

9:00 Liturgist: Valerie McKay **Greeters:** Wendy Heisey and Nancy Lightcap
Ushers: Lee & Becky Baker and Wayne & Susie Spitler **Hospitality:** Jim & Marilyn M. & Valerie M.
Nursery: 10:15 Jill C. & Marijo S. / 11:15 Kim D. & Wendy H.

11:15 Greeters: Ben G., Julia C., & Kathy Koeller **Scripture Reader:** Andrew C. **Sound:** Eric M.
Ushers: Les, Sharon, & Megan T. and Ruth L. **Media:** Norman H.

Feb 9th — Altar flowers are available

9:00 Liturgist: Wendy Heisey **Greeters:** Bill & Judy Brown
Ushers: Les Trittschuh and Phil & Karen McFadden **Hospitality:** Kay W. & Steve K.
Nursery: 10:15 Marcia C. & Lesli R. / 11:15 Kathy K. and Cliff & Katie P.

11:15 Greeters: Lisa W. and Dick & Mary Ann M. **Scripture Reader:** Tim B. **Sound:** Jill C.
Ushers: Julia C., Ben G., and Sally & Paul M. **Media:** Norman H.

Feb 16th — Altar flowers are available

9:00 Liturgist: Mike Circle **Greeters:** Elaine Iddings
Ushers: Jim Scammahorn & Dave Thompson **Hospitality:** Chris & Linda L.
Nursery: 10:15 Jill C. & Patti W. / 11:15 Emily K. & Megan T.

11:15 Greeters: Kathy W. and Amanda B. **Scripture Reader:** Norman H. **Sound:** Norman H.
Ushers: Dejon D. **Media:**

Feb 23rd — Altar flowers are available

9:00 Liturgist: Les Trittschuh **Greeters:** Carol Storer and Peggy Nihizer
Ushers: Cliff Poling & Joe Blackburn **Hospitality:** Tom & Janet W.
Nursery: 10:15 Eric & Johanna M. / 11:15 Jennifer K. & Ben G.

11:15 Greeters: Sally & Paul M. and Marijo Schlecht **Scripture Reader:** Matt B. **Sound:** Norman H.
Usher: Lisa W. **Media:** Valerie M.

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary February 2020

1st - Tim & Lisa Wright (37 yrs)
 2nd - Bret Beard
 4th - Ed & Sandy Johannes (59 yrs)
 5th - Leah Blackburn
 6th - Amy Todd
 9th - Danielle Lawhorn
 10th - Luke Frazier
 Penny Todd
 Darin Wion
 14th - Bret & Teesha Beard (27 yrs)
 15th - Luke & Barb Frazier (63 yrs)
 16th - Steve Kraus
 Nancy Studebaker



17th - Janet Balsbaugh
 Rose Knostman
 19th - Marcia Smith
 Lester Trittschuh
 20th - Ansel Circle
 Sandy Johannes
 Terry & Wendy Long (38 yrs)
 21st - Silas Raines
 22nd - Roy Nickels, Jr.
 Wayne & Susie Spitler (56 yrs)
 23rd - Janet Benkert
 24th - Olivia Bryson
 25th - Nancy Lightcap
 26th - Lydia Garrett
 28th - Terry Long

The 2020 flower calendar is on the bulletin board at the back of the sanctuary.
 Remember to sign up for your special Sundays. The cost is \$20 per Sunday.

Hoffman United Methodist Church, Holidays in United States

Feb 2020 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>26</div> <div>9 am - Worship</div> <div>10:15am - S School</div> <div>11:15am - Worship</div> <div>1pm - Private Party</div> <div>6:30pm - Ignite</div>	<div>27</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts - B</div>	<div>28</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div>	<div>29</div> <div>9 am - Women's</div> <div>6:30pm - Women's</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>30</div> <div>Mail Towers</div> <div>7:30pm - Praise</div>	<div>31</div>	<div>1</div> <div>12pm - Y. Spirits A.</div>
<div>2</div> <div>Communion</div> <div>9 am - Worship</div> <div>10:15am - S School</div> <div>11:15am - Worship</div> <div>6:30pm - Ignite</div>	<div>3</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts - B</div> <div>7pm - Visitation</div>	<div>4</div> <div>11am - Women's</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div> <div>7pm - Trustee Mtg. -</div>	<div>5</div> <div>9 am - Women's</div> <div>6:30pm - Women's</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>6</div> <div>12:30pm - W Design</div> <div>7:30pm - Praise</div>	<div>7</div>	<div>8</div> <div>12pm - Y. Spirits A.</div>
<div>9</div> <div>9 am - Worship</div> <div>10:15am - S School</div> <div>11:15am - Worship</div> <div>6:30pm - Ignite</div>	<div>10</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts - B</div>	<div>11</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div>	<div>12</div> <div>9 am - Women's</div> <div>6:30pm - Women's</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>13</div> <div>7pm - Weaving Class</div> <div>7:30pm - Praise</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Valentine's Day</div>	<div>15</div> <div>12pm - Y. Spirits A.</div>
<div>16</div> <div>9 am - Worship</div> <div>10:15am - S School</div> <div>11:15am - Worship</div> <div>12:30pm - Luncheon</div> <div>6:30pm - Ignite</div>	<div>17</div> <div>Presidents' Day</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts - B</div>	<div>18</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div>	<div>19</div> <div>9 am - Women's</div> <div>6:30pm - Women's</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>20</div> <div>Towers' Deadline</div> <div>6:30pm - Board Mtg</div> <div>7pm - Weaving Class</div> <div>7:30pm - Praise</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div> <div>12pm - Y. Spirits A.</div>
<div>23</div> <div>9 am - Worship</div> <div>10:15am - S School</div> <div>11:15am - Worship</div> <div>6:30pm - Ignite</div>	<div>24</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts - B</div>	<div>25</div> <div>6:30pm - Bell Choir</div>	<div>26</div> <div>9 am - Women's</div> <div>6:30pm - Women's</div> <div>7pm - Chancel Choir</div>	<div>27</div> <div>Mail Towers</div> <div>6:30pm - 4-H - B</div> <div>7pm - Weaving Class</div> <div>7:30pm - Praise</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div> <div>12pm - Y. Spirits A.</div>

People to remember in prayer:



Hoffman Sympathies to: the family of Marcia Miller, Jerry Pinkerton's sister,
as she passed away on December 2, 2019

At Home: Phil Blue, Nan Guthrie, Valaria Harshbarger, Charlotte Hepfer, Cindy Johnston,
Helen Keller, Kathy Kinsey, Terry & Wendy Long, Mary Maess, Dick & Eugenie Markley,
Miriam Miller, Joetta Perry, Shirley Richhart, and Monica Winemiller

At Centers:

John Jackson, 46 Lavender Pl, Tipp City OH 45371
Katie Weeks, 1746 E Silver Star Road #525, Ocoee FL 34761

Please remember all of our shut-ins with cards and prayers.

THANK YOU

Hoffman Methodist Church, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my church family for the many cards, calls, and get well wishes. Thank you very much!! Be back soon. Bill Brown

Emmaus Woman's Share Group

February 4th at 11 a.m.
in Multi-Purpose Room

All Church Valentine's Pasta Luncheon/Silent Auction

on Sunday, Feb. 16th at 12:30 p.m. Pasta, salad and bread provided for a donation. Feel free to bring a dessert to share. Silent Auction - feel free to bring something to auction off. Auction proceeds will go to Bulldog Bags. Look forward to Valentine's themed games and activities after lunch. Feel free to invite your families and friends.

International Food Tasting March 28th Saturday



from 3 to 5pm in Activity Center. 8 countries will be represented. Bring the community, all are invited!

COME FOR FUN FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

Sponsored by United Methodist Women . Donations Accepted.
Contact Katie Poling 266-3519

Greetings Hoffman Women: Have you been thinking if the class "The Holy Spirit and You" is for you? Perhaps these questions will help you decide.

What do you know about the Holy Spirit? Do you sometimes feel there is something missing in your spiritual walk with God? Do you want more of His presence in your life? If you have a hunger to know more, come join us.

-Thursdays March 5th – April 9th 6:30 – 8 p.m.
In the Multi-Purpose Room 2 & 3

-No study workbooks, bring a notebook, pencil and Bible

-A sign-up sheet will be on the table outside the church office, so we have a count for handouts

Questions? call Mary Ann Martens 937-719-3043

Theda's Thoughts

Submitted by Theda Klepinger

In the month of February, we observe Valentine's Day giving us the opportunity to express our love for our families and friends. Also, February is the month we honor past Presidents of these United States of America. These men possessed a love for our country and its citizens. Shall we read the "Love chapter", I Corinthians 13 and fill our hearts with God's love that always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres, and never fails. God Bless You and God Bless America!

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



Kids Hope Valentine's Party- February 9th

*More information will be coming. We will be having this party at the school in order to give all of the students a chance to participate.

All Church Valentine's Luncheon Feb. 16 12:30pm

- *Pasta Luncheon- pasta, salad and bread provided, donation
- *Feel free to bring a dessert to share
- *Silent Auction- feel free to bring something to auction off
- *Auction proceeds will go to Bulldog Bags
- *Valentine's themed games and activities after lunch.
- *Feel free to invite your families and friends.

Sunday School Hour

10:15-11:10

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Preschool Children's
Church Hour

11:15-12:20

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

Sunday Night Help Needed

6:30-8:30

Commitment would be for
1 month at a time.
Responsibilities: help oversee
youth. No planning involved.

Ignite

Grades 6-12
Sundays
6:30-8:30 pm

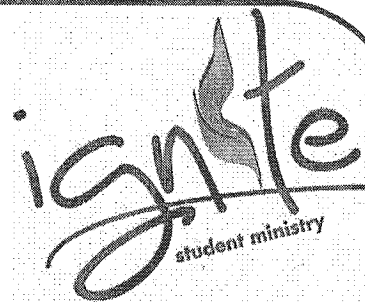
Ignite gear available

T-shirts
Bags
Information and Post cards

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

20/20: A Year of improved vision

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



Hello church! Ignite has a new 20/20 vision! This year we are challenging ourselves to dive deeper into the word of God, so that our vision and outlook on life may improve. We started a new series last month called "Essential Bible Passages." The series explores different passages (Old Testament and New) that explain some vital truths and promises of God. We have also started doing Sword Drills (quickest to look up given verse) and Bible Trivia on Sunday nights. In our day of age with technology and scripture being displayed on screens, fewer and fewer Bibles have been brought to church. I have challenged the youth to bring their Bibles every Sunday. If they do not have one, we are providing one for them.

In January, we had a successful Church Skate Night where we enjoyed an evening of skating with Christian music at Piqua 36 Skate Club. Thank you so much for your continued support, prayers, and time!

February Voice of the Martyrs

Hello friends. We have come into a new year with more blessings than we can count, but also with many challenges in our nation and around the world as we press forward toward the goal of spreading the good news. My focus this month is on the countries of Turkey and Syria. Turkey is traditionally a Muslim country. Now the country has approximately 174,000 Christians. The government there remains in many tense situations. Among many, Turkey is sending troops to Libya to stop the country from being taken over by ISIS and Al-Qaeda, which in fact would put our Libyan brothers and sisters in a terrible situation. Turkish Christians face most of their persecution from family members and discrimination from the authorities. Christians have no access to state employment. In 2019 at least 24 families were forced to leave the country because of their beliefs. These situations can be very confusing as Turkey supports Russian led rebels in another neighboring country such as Syria. Northern Syrian Christians are said to be living in somewhat of a panic, due to war and invasions. Kidnappings of children are common. The everyday struggle to survive is intense. Churches are attacked, even Christian schools are attacked. This is a very sad reality of our time but we can at least stand with Christians in love and this prayer is from the Voice of the Martyrs website and I wonder if when you read this you would consider praying this for one week, once a day.

Heavenly Father as war and fear, famine and death surrounded us; we put our trust in you. Lead me, Lord, to do your will even if it means giving up my life for you. Please do a mighty work in this region and bring many others to believe in the true God, Amen.

Remember as so many in these countries feel Islam has failed them they ask other Christian there about Jesus, many are being saved through these conditions and for that we can praise our God for choosing such incredible warriors to advance his Kingdom. Until he comes, Marijo Schlecht

X

hoffman
united methodist church
201 S Main Street
West Milton OH 45383

X

the **open door**
come as you are

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

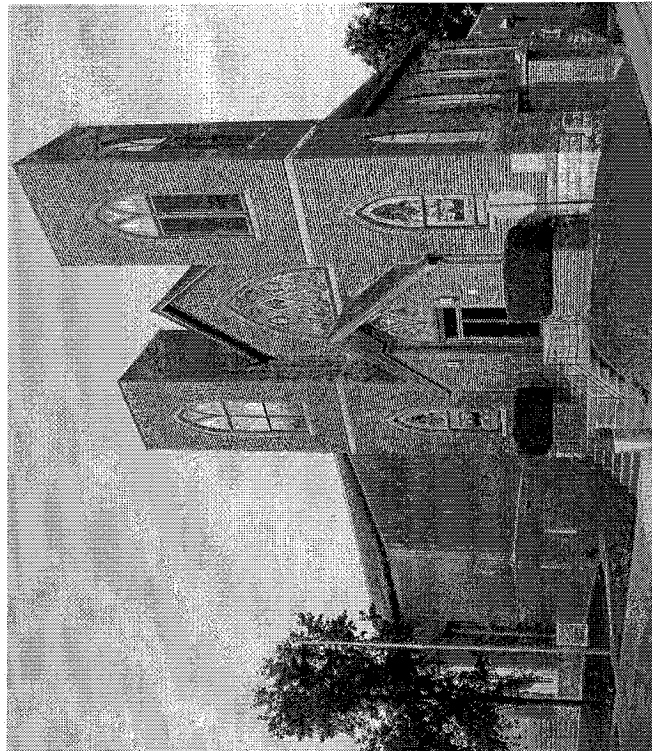
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Return Service Requested

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**TOWERS
THERES**



February
2020

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