

THE TOWERS

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

JUNE 2020



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

POWER

Luke 24:49 ⁴⁹ "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

I'm not sure anyone would ever refer to me as "handy" in making repairs. I can almost name my first household repair, for it was right after I married Bridget. Her mom's oven wasn't working, and when I examined it, and behold 😊, the element was burnt through. As I looked more closely, I could see a couple philips head screws holding a plate on, so I took those out, and found the element just had a couple connecting pieces that could be unhooked, so I got a new one, replaced it, no problem. I still remember my first light switch. I could see there were just a couple wires connected to screws, and I thought, "no problem." It is difficult to put into words that pulsing feeling of 110v electricity coarsing through your hands and arms...the pulsing is what really surprises you, haha! That was my first hint to learn where the breaker box was in my mother-in-law's house. It was a real "hands-on" moment when my confidence came into conflict with electrical power, and I was more humble after. Many times in our world, the word "power" is associated with engines, politics, destruction, or influence. In the New Testament, the word translated as Power is almost exclusively reserved for God, or for the Christ. The Greek word is the root for the English words such as Dynamo or Dynamite.

Particularly in the gospels, this word is reserved almost as a sense of awe and wonder. There are a few moments in which this word is connected to the human experience. One such moment is found in the announcement to Mary that she is going to give birth to the Son of God, as the "power of the Most High" would make this possible (Luke 1:35). There were healings referred to as Christ's power going out (Luke 6:19), and one healing was someone sneaking up to him from behind, and yet he still felt the power go out (Luke 8:46). As Jesus sent out the

12 apostles to cast out demons, and to heal diseases, we read that Jesus gave them power (Luke 9:1, and this would have of course included Judas). It is acknowledged that the enemy also has power, but by and large, "power" is reserved for the Holy Trinity in general.

Pentecost, an Old Testament Festival celebrating the 50th day after Passover, was the chosen time for a promise to be fulfilled.

Luke 24:49 "And behold (!!!!-rs), I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

"...Clothed with power..."

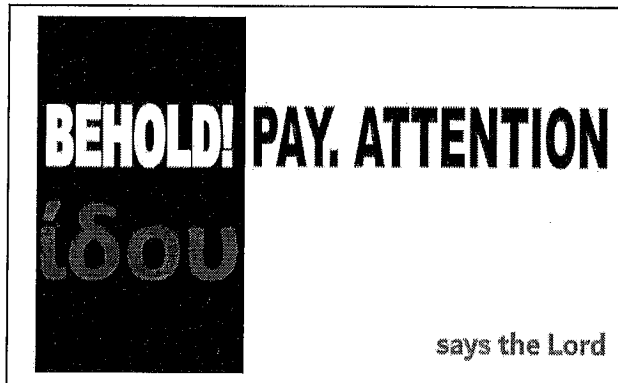
That is quite an image, to imagine human beings being given power in such a quantity that they would be "clothed" in it. This wasn't a temporary use of the power, like when they were sent out before; this was power they would have with them throughout ministry.

Theologically, we say that as Christ ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit was free to come down, and dwell within

the Church, that is, the people redeemed by Christ. Pentecost is the birth of Christianity, as a ragtag band of fishermen, rebels, and tax collectors led a movement that changed the world. Amazingly, THAT power, true power, is still available for the Church today, even including you, and including me, to work in and through us in all these times we may feel powerless.

My prayer for all of us is that we will realize how "powerful" we are, even (or maybe, especially) when we feel weak or even powerless. I look forward to us being in together in worship someday soon. While we will be in the series "BEHOLD" for a little bit longer, we will have a couple "guest preachers" in coming weeks who I hope you will enjoy.

While (still) shining church lights at night for hope,
I am,
In His Service and Yours,



Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Devotions were led by Julia. Julia shared from a devotional series, Christ over Corona, from the "Bible" app. We worship a God who has promised that this virus is underneath the complete control of Jesus, as seen in Ephesians, and will be, must be, used for the good of God's Church, Romans 8:28. That means even this virus must bow its knees and submit to Jesus. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Julia.

Meeting Attendees (meeting was held via Zoom)

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

Pastor's Report

The average attendance for February was 145 and for March was 147. Facebook service attendance is being monitored by counting "likes", and comments to create attendance. True analytics of the attendance and viewership is difficult with the way Facebook monitors, but it looks positive that we have maintained, even improved, our attendance. Norman has been working with Robbie delivering online service. Becky has been preparing "children's moment" videos each week and has been continuing her support of the food initiatives at the school. Joseph has been reaching out to the youth via their app. Robbie reported on technology updates for online worship services. The board discussed replacing JoAnn's computer. There was also discussion regarding when to return to physical worship. The board's recommendation is to follow the governor and bishop's recommendations*. Further discussion will be held as to what it will look like if/and when we return; eg how many, social distancing, communion, and how best to continue live-streaming. Pulpit fill planned for Aug 2, Tom Weeks. Robbie will be planning for possibly another day of rest after the "stay-at-home" order is lifted.

Finance

John reviewed our current finances favorably. We are currently one full week short on giving, but still have 6.5 times budget in reserve. Bulldog bags will no longer be listed on budget as they have become a non-profit separate from the church.

Nominations

SPRC Co Chair position remains open Robbie has a possible option

Staff Parish Relations

Safe Sanctuary policy is under review

Trustee Update

Current checking funds 14,000 with giving to the capital fund averaging \$849/month for 2020. The water leak under the parsonage was repaired 4/7. The board approved for the trustees to replace activity center light bulbs with LEDs. Trustees have received a second bid for stained glass window restoration.

Non-Agenda Items

The Safety and Security Committee update was given by David. The Safety and Security Team met on 16 March and discussed the draft Emergency and Business Continuity Plan. The main discussion centered around whether to allow Concealed Carry in the church. The team recommends that a survey be distributed to the congregation to gauge feelings about allowing specific people to carry guns in church. The survey has been tabled until we can return to normal services. Team also discussed putting together a mass casualty first aid kit, replacing the expired pads and battery in the AED, and putting up tornado shelter signs for the activity center bathrooms, the nursery, and the childrens church room in the basement.

** Translating the recommendations from the bishop and governor into our context is proving more challenging, and thus there has been extra care/caution in planning full invitation for public worship. We have two services occupying the same space within a short period of time, unlike the vast majority of the churches in the conference and district.-RS*

Friends, I am certain you would love a definitive date for public worship. The pews have already been marked, and the books removed from the racks in readiness for worship. Our worship schedule has not changed, and we've attempted to make the online experience the best possible. Miami County's numbers are nothing to laugh at or dismiss when compared to the rest of Ohio. Though the west door has never been locked on these Sundays, I request those who are able to enjoy the services online allow those without the online option to safely come for the next couple weeks. My suspicion is that throughout June more and more will gather, but those who know they are at higher risk should know online worship will continue even as we gradually gather again. I strongly recommend those gathering in person wear masks at least while we gather, and during responsive readings and songs.

Our serving areas are going to look very different in person, as we will no longer pass bulletins, pew pads, offering plates, or communion trays. We will need weekly servants willing to clean touchable areas between services, so if that hits your "sweet spot" of service, please let me know. *Pastor Robbie*

‘Stay At Home’ Statistics

Date	5/3/20	5/10/2020	5/17/2020	5/24/2020
General Offering	5395.84	9232.00	5644.00	3465.00
Weekly Budget Need	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00
Mission Offering	315.00	120.00	80.00	115.00
Maintenance Fund	730.00	930.00	60.00	115.00
Building Fund	568.00	300.00	25.00	85.00
Online Attendance				
9 a.m. Service	94	67	77	77
11:15 a.m. Service	45	54	54	56
Total Attendance	139	121	131	133

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary June 2020



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|---|---|---|
| <p>4th - Amy Barnes
Landon Bryson
Dick Martens
Tiana McKay
Chris & Jenna Moran 9 yrs</p> <p>5th - Lynn & Marilyn Yount 60 yrs</p> <p>6th - Carolyn Barga
Gary & Carolyn Barga 28 yrs
Tim & Kathy Koeller 50 yrs</p> <p>7th - Wilma Hoover</p> <p>8th - Dejon Dohrman</p> <p>11th - Carol Storer</p> | <p>12th - Sally Miller
Andrew & Julia Circle 9 yrs</p> <p>13th - Kathryn (Keller) Boggs
Dave Thompson
Dick & Eugenie Markley 67 yrs</p> <p>14th - Joy Paulus
Dejon & Kim Dohrman 23 yrs</p> <p>15th - Marcia Cox</p> <p>16th - Scott & Cindy Johnston 20 yrs</p> <p>17th - Mike Circle
Norman Hiester</p> | <p>20th - Nancy Mills
Shelia Shade
Ben & Becky Garrett 11 yrs
Tom & Janet Weeks 50 yrs</p> <p>21st - Shane & Amy Todd 23 yrs</p> <p>22nd - Dean & Megan Bryson 7 yrs</p> <p>23rd - Sydney Dohrman
Joe & Jennifer Knostman 13 yrs</p> <p>25th - Lynn Yount</p> <p>27th - John & LaVerne Hennemyre 56 yrs</p> <p>28th - Robert & Marcia Cox 45 yrs</p> <p>29th - Devin Mitchell
Norman Paulus</p> |
|---|---|---|

People to remember in prayer:



Hoffman Sympathies:

to the family of Teresa Skidmore, Kelly Snider's mother, as she passed away April 28, 2020
to the family of Dorothy Besal, Dick Porter's sister, as she passed away on May 14, 2020

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

At Centers: 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

Hoffman Phone Prayer Chain

Would you like to be a part of our phone prayer chain ministry? Call or text Nancy Studebaker at (937) 825-2282

Do you have a friend or family member who would like to receive our monthly newsletter? Once you get their permission, let us know their name and address and we will add them to our mailing list. Call (937) 698-4401 or email: humchurch@gmail.com.

The 2020 14th Annual Art Show has been cancelled. 2021 show dates are July 30th thru August 1st. Thanks to everyone who has been involved in the show in past years. We look forward to the 2021 Show.

Lunch Bunch will not be done as it previously has been; we will not be serving food in the building, but will be giving out food in a different way. More information will be coming out as Good Shepherd and Becky decide what it will look like.

Electronic donations can be made directly to the church by contacting your bank. Your bank then sends a check to the church for no charge. Please contact John Ankerman, Finance Chair at (937)478-2078 with any questions.

If you are watching Sunday services online, please comment how many in your family are watching.



Happy Father's Day
to all our dads!
June 21, 2020

Special thanks to Erin Studebaker for tracking attendance during our online services. We appreciate you!

Theda's Thoughts

Submitted by Theda Klepinger

Jesus said "I am the bright Morning Star". He also said "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life".

Phil. 2:15-16you shine like stars in the universe as you hold on to the Word of life.
At night stars shine brightly like diamonds in the sky.. On a gloomy day we can ponder these truths and begin to experience a bright and beautiful day.



Summer 2020 Updates

I wanted to share a few things with all of you in this month's towers. Obviously, things are going to look different for our children and what we do in the community for this summer. I am going to touch on a few things... if you have any questions or feedback please email me at ragarrett15@gmail.com or call me at 937-524-7220. Thanks!! Hope to see you all again soon. I have missed every single one of you (not just the children)!!

Vacation Bible School: July 19-23

As of right now I have come up with 5 different ideas for running a VBS for this summer. I am taking feedback from parents right now to see what they are comfortable with and will continue to keep the church up to date with what is decided. Please be in prayer that we will be able to still reach the children in our community with the Good News this summer.

Lunch Bunch: June-August

For this summer we will not be holding regular Lunch Bunch. We will not be having families come into the church and sit family style at tables and chairs. There is an idea for a Friday night give out for over the weekend food (sort of like what Bulldog Bags does during the school year). Hopefully, we will know more by the time that you receive this month's Towers. Please continue to pray for us while we make the best decision for the families in our community.

Sunday School/Nursery:

We will not hold Sunday school or have the nursery open for the month of June. We are looking toward holding Sunday school outside for the month of July. More information will come in June about this idea. We hope to see your family again soon, but we understand if this causes more stress with coming back to service. I will continue to have something for the kids to do during the services. I miss you all and your amazing children very much.

****A quick Bulldog Bags update****

A huge thank you to everyone who has been continuing to support Bulldog Bags. We are currently still serving about 100 kids each Thursday. We will be stopping our handouts at the end of May. Lunch Bunch will be picking up (Bulldog Bags will be helping out by supplying some extra food from this year).

We are continuing to take monetary donations. Feel free to either:

Send it to the church (we still have an account at the church) by filling out the check to Hoffman and put Bulldog Bags in the memo. This money is then given to Bulldog Bags to use.

Or you can send it to Bulldog Bags P.O. Box 93 West Milton, OH 45383. This check should be written to Bulldog Bags. (We are not yet officially Federal Tax Exempt so we can't do anything with exemption for taxes... we are waiting for the federal government to give us an answer.)

Thank you so much for continuing to give to this program. I have been able to interact with the families who receive these bags and they are truly grateful for our community of givers. You are truly amazing followers of God.

X


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

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the **open door**
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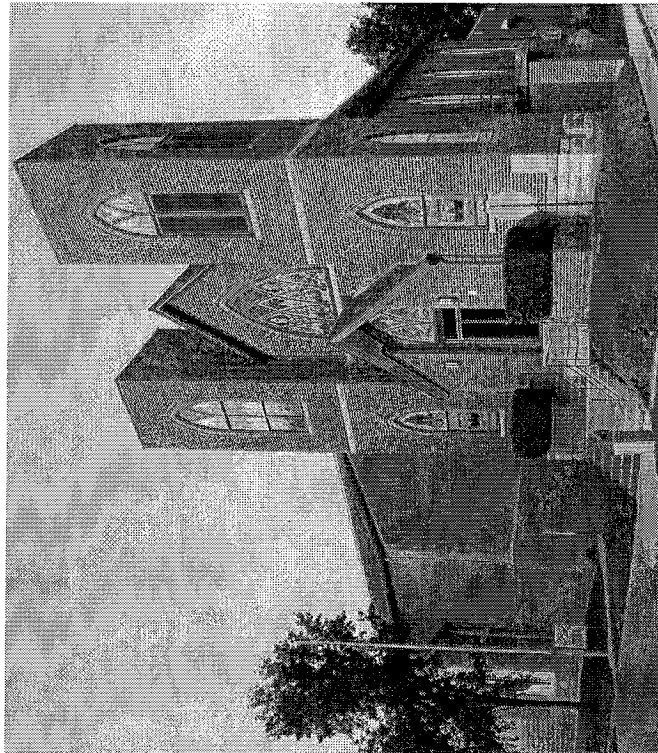
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TOWERS
THERS

June
 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