



# THE TOWERS

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

November 2020



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

COMMUNION... of Saints

**Romans 8:38-39 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

*"What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the the everlasting arms; what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the the everlasting arms..."*

These are the first words of one of my favorite songs of the faith (granted, I have several "favorites"). As a child I probably liked this one because of the pace we sang it at my home church, and I doubt many would say the UM Hymnal is "full" of songs with pace. 😊 That being said, the words of this hymn are among those that have encouraged me over the decades. I'm aware that we can sing this with a very individual focus, that the "fellowship" is just about Jesus and "me," but normally we speak of fellowship with a larger audience in mind...that all of us with voices joined proclaim a fellowship together with the everlasting arms of God. It is kind of a "I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together" moment, in which the Church of Jesus Christ makes a singular declaration as the Bride of Christ, a singular "fellowship" to share in the "joy divine" where "peace is mine."

Fellowship has had its challenges in recent months, as we have had to "settle" for alternative forms of it, be it through online interactions, phone calls, or other forms safely "distanced." By and large, we have not liked it. We want to be together in the ways that we remember. It is true of this present season, as we are able to gather in the sanctuary together, but differently, and as we gather we notice who is not with us, whether due to additional health risk factors, or whether they have joined the "Church Triumphant" I keep writing about in the emails.

This brings me to an important aspect of All Saints' Day, or All Hallows' Day, if you prefer the older language. We have too many reminders that life is fragile; that we are never guaranteed to see each other in person again. We also have reminders in our faith that we too can join the Church Triumphant if we persevere. On this side of eternity, we are called the Church Militant, for we are still in the struggle against the powers of darkness in This world. We continue that struggle until our last breath. Have you noted what is the same

about both "sides" of eternity? "Church."

There is one Church. Saints redeemed by Christ are either in one or the other, but all are saints, and all are the Church. This is where it gets cool. The Apostles Creed affirms that we believe in "the Communion of Saints." Those few times we do share it in worship, we may rush by it, for it is near the end of the creed, but it matters. The Communion of Saints is less about sharing in bread and juice, and more about sharing fellowship...a fellowship not separated by race, or by politics; not separated by geography: not separated by time...not even separated by death. Let that sink in for a moment. There is one Church that gathers to



celebrate and worship the God of the living...those living on the Church Militant side of eternity, or those living on the Church Triumphant side of eternity, and we share in that fellowship together. This fellowship also looks different, and stretches beyond social distancing boundaries, beyond geography, race, even beyond the boundaries of time and space, life and what we think of as death. I pray we continue to press on in the power of the Holy Spirit as we hold together our fellowship in all the forms available to us. Our physical altar tables are so tiny compared to the table God offers for all the saints past and present to gather in fellowship together. While trying to be aware of the "hugs" of the cloud of witnesses, I am,

In His Service and Yours,

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# Board Meeting Highlights

## Devotions

Devotions were led by Jill on the topic of contentment using the scripture reference of Philippians 4:10-13.

## Meeting Attendees

Dick Martens, Carol Storer, Wendy Heisey, Julia Circle, Jill Circle, John Ankerman, Patti Wion, Dan Studebaker (zoom) and Pastor Robbie Scott

## Ministry and Mission

As what might be considered an extension of the Visitation Team ministry, "Phone a Friend" is an organized attempt to check on each other.

## Pastor's Report

The average attendance for August was 34 in person, 74 online. Norman has been instrumental in the success of Sunday services including PowerPoint for the services and in the recordings. The nursery is now open on Sundays during second service. Becky has plans for a "Family Fun" night and a "Trunk-or-Treat" during October Ignite small group meetings have begun every Sunday, alternating weeks with Middle School and High School students. Average attendance is 7. Baptism for Kat Granado is Sunday September 20th. Pastor Robbie will be presiding over Church/Charge Conferences this year for 5 congregations in Darke County. He has been invited to serve another 4 years on the Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

## Staff Parish Relations

Copies of evaluation for Pastor Robbie were distributed for completion.

## Trustee Update

The main projects are air conditioning unit replacement and the sealing of the Towers.

## Finance

The finance report for August was reviewed and accepted. Weekly need \$4824, this month giving \$4280. We are currently operating at 2 weeks under budget. An "invitation to pledge" letter will be sent to the congregation with the pledge cards next week with request for return by October 8. 2021 Proposed Budget was available for review. The new category of "Media Subscriptions" includes subscriptions to RightNow Media, Sharefaith, Optisigns, 1 and 1. The budget as presented with 2% staff salary increase and the understanding of a few line items listed as estimated will be updated by the time of charge conference was approved.

## Nomination

The following motion made and approved: "Due to the 2020 COVID crisis, the current terms of office expiration for our Church Board be extended by one year. The exceptions to this motion would be that the Chair will take the Vice Chair position for one year, and the Vice Chair will as scheduled take the Chair position, but for 3 years."

## Upcoming Events

- Baptism 9/20
- Photo Directory pictures 10/23 and 10/24
- Trunk -or-Treat Thursday Oct 31 (*a change from what was reported at the meeting-rs*)
- All Saints 11/1
- Veterans' Service 11/8- (Assistance need to hang retired banners 11/6 at 8:00 AM)
- Charge Conference 11/19 at 7:30, Rev Jon Ferguson will be the presiding elder for our Church Conference.

\* Occasional edits to the Highlights happen due to corrections or updates in information that have happened since. -rs

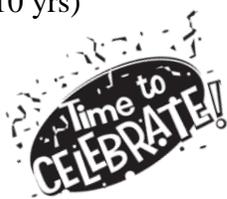
While COVID-19 continues to impact gatherings, I wish to invite those who have been safely running errands and keeping appointments to consider joining the physical congregation on Sunday mornings. Of course we implore that all who come be healthy and use best practices of distance and masks. We have plenty of room for more at each service while still keeping social distance standards. The chart below records both those in physical and confirmed online attendance. -rs

Date	9/27/20	10/4/20	10/11/20	10/18/20	10/25/20
General Offering	4613.00	5525.00	3899.00	1759.00	3790.00
Weekly Budget Need	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00
Mission Offering	230.00	280.00	175.00	85.00	205.00
Maintenance Fund	535.00	250.00	100.00	455.00	215.00
Building Fund & Memorials	1285.00	414.00	75.00	255.00	165.00
Online & Physical Attendance					
9 a.m. Service at church	27	24	22	22	20
* Remote viewing	33	25	34	38	33
11:15 a.m. Service at church	20	21	27	17	21
* Remote viewing	20	24	9	31	13
Total Attendance	100	94	92	108	87

\* '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  
November 2020**

- 1st - Jeff & Denise Ellinger (5 yrs)
- 3rd - John & Ruth Hayes (64 yrs)
- 6th - Amy Karch  
Linda Long  
George & Lauren Everage (10 yrs)
- 7th - Joel Benkert
- 8th - John Ankerman  
Wendy Heisey
- 10th - Jim Balsbaugh  
Judy Brown



- 14th - Christy Harris  
Lori Parsons
- 16th - Logan Burns
- 17th - Lee & Becky Baker (42 yrs)
- 23rd - Denise Ellinger
- 25th - Chris Long
- 27th - Ron Butt
- 30th - LaVerne Hennemyre

The 2021 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.

***People to remember in prayer:***



***Hoffman Sympathies to:***

the family of Rev. Paul Chastain, Carol Bryson's father, as he passed away on September 26, 2020  
the family of Cindy Garrett Johnston, as she passed away on September 28, 2020  
the family of Joe Johnston, Patti Wion's brother, as he passed away on October 14, 2020

***At Home:*** Nancy Allen, Phil Blue, Nan Guthrie, Valaria Harshbarger, Helen Keller, Kathy Kinsey, Terry & Wendy Long, Mary Maess, Dick & Eugenie Markley, Miriam Miller, 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***

To my church family, thanks for all the cards, prayers and calls. I appreciate you all. Sandy Johannes

Thanks to everyone who supported the CROP Walk

**A special Veterans Day program** honoring Union Township veterans and their families will take place on Sunday, November 8, at 2:00 P.M. in the activity center and everyone is invited. The retired military banners will be presented to those families at the end of the program.

A video has been created to go along with stories submitted about each veteran featured. The main speaker will be ninety-five-year old WWII Veteran D. Ralph Young of Centerville. Dennis Albaugh and Rec Carpenter will take part in the program. The doors to the activity center will open at 1:00. Masks are required and the seating will be arranged to accommodate social distancing. Admission is free and will continue until the chairs are filled.

The program will be broadcast on West Milton's public access station (Channel 5) and on YouTube under wmpatv. It will also be on Hoffman's Facebook page.

**Election Day Dinner, Craft Show, Community Thanksgiving Service and the Hoffman Christmas party have been canceled**

We look forward to next year's events.

Remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday October 31st

**Church Charge Conference**

**November 19, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.**

after the church board meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Church members are welcome to attend, but for social distancing planning please let Pastor Robbie know if you are planning on attending.

**Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Gifts** deadline is November 22nd. See information on table in lobby.

**Christmas Staff Gifts** will be presented to the staff in appreciation for all their hard work. Please be generous and mark your donation "Staff Gifts" by Dec 13<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your contribution. Carol S. & Dan S., SPRC

**Emmaus Walks**

2021 Walks are at Sulphur Grove UMC:

Men's Walk #68 June 10-13, 2021

Women's Walk #108 July 15-18, 2021

If you interested in going on an Emmaus walk or would like more information contact Pastor Robbie

Thoughts by Sarah Young from "Jesus Calling" daily devotional

Wait quietly in God's presence while His thoughts form silently in the depths of your being. Do not try to rush this process, because hurry keeps your heart earthbound. God is the Creator of the entire universe, yet He chose to make His humble home in your heart. It is there where you know Him most intimately; it is there where He speaks to you in holy whispers. Ask God's Spirit to quiet your mind so that you can hear *His still, small voice* with in you. God is speaking to you continually: words of Life . . . Peace . . . Love. Tune your heart to receive these messages of abundant blessing.

*Lay your request Before God and Wait in expectation.*

## Grandma's Kitchen

October's meal went well. (We served 120 meals total for delivery, carryout and volunteers.) Our last meal for 2020 will be on November 11<sup>th</sup>. Please order carryout meals by Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> so we can purchase and prepare enough food. We haven't had much in the way of leftovers so if you don't order ahead you may miss out. Call Marilyn Mitchell at 937-947-1831, or if you can't reach her, the church office at 937-688-4401. Meals are \$7.00 (exact change would be appreciated) and may be picked up between 5-6 pm.

### Menu for November 11th

Spiral-spliced ham  
Baked potatoes  
Broccoli  
Applesauce  
Chocolate delight



### 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 the money, in the offering plate by Sunday, December 6th. Our supplier is Stockslager's and

the cost is \$8.00 each. Checks will be payable to Hoffman U. M. Church. Please mark envelope POINSETTIAS.

(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. \_\_\_\_\_

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>All Saints Day</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>Daylight Saving</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Worship</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6pm - Girl Scouts -B</p> <p>7pm - Visitation</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Dinner Canceled</p> <p>Election Day</p> <p>7pm - Setup A.C.</p> <p>7pm - Trustee Mtg. -</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11:30am - Private</p> <p>1pm - Bulldog Bags -</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Set Up A.C.</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Worship</p> <p>2pm - Veteran's Day</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6pm - Girl Scouts -B</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10am - G'mas</p> <p>6:30pm - Men's</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Grandma's Kitchen -</p> <p>Veterans Day</p> <p>1pm - Bulldog Bags -</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9am - Trustee Work</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Worship</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6pm - Girl Scouts -B</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30pm - Men's</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Towers' Deadline</p> <p>1pm - Bulldog Bags -</p>	<p>19</p> <p>6:30pm - Board Mtg</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Canceled - Craft</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Worship</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Mail Towers</p> <p>6pm - Girl Scouts -B</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>1pm - Bulldog Bags -</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Black Friday</p> <p>Native American</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9am - Worship</p> <p>11:15am - Worship</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6pm - Girl Scouts -B</p>	<p>1</p> <p>7pm - Trustee Mtg. -</p>	<p>2</p> <p>11:30am - Private</p> <p>1pm - Bulldog Bags -</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Setup A.C.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Christmas Party A.</p>

## Hoffman Stained Glass Window Restoration Project

The trustees noticed that Hoffman's stained glass windows are in dire need of restoration. They contacted several stained glass restoration companies and requested quotes. The companies noted that our storm windows are not vented, the stained glass is sagging to the point where there are gaps in several places where the glass has separated from the frame and lead comes, and some of the saddle bars are broken. 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.



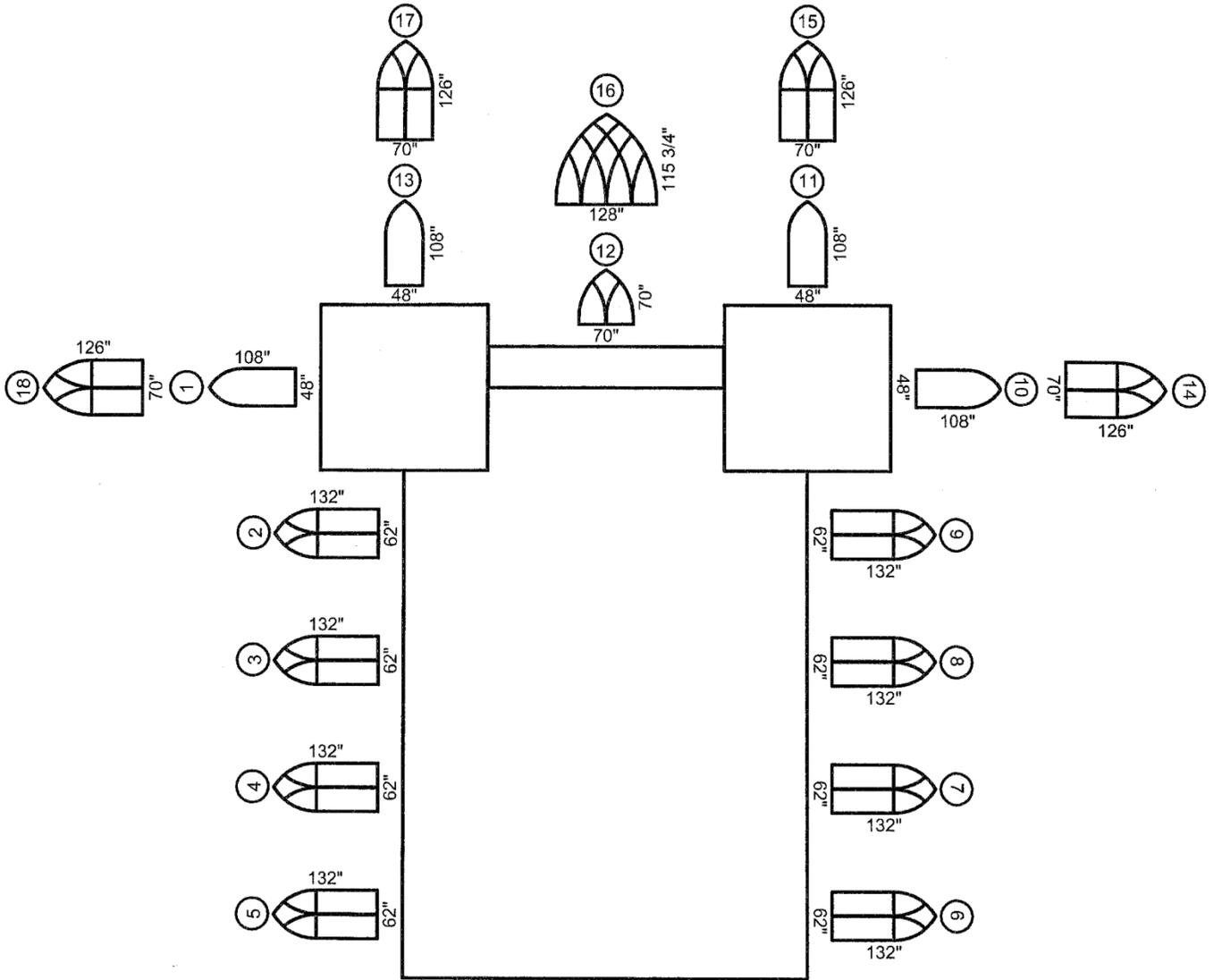
One company proposed removing and restoring all windows and replacing the storm windows with Plexiglass mounted in custom vented aluminum frames. The other company proposed removing and restoring all windows and venting the existing storm windows. The trustees recommend going with the second company at a significantly reduced cost since the existing storm windows are functional and only need to be vented and painted.

The trustees asked the church board to approve a capital fund drive to obtain pledges for 50% of the project cost before proceeding with the restoration. Please consider pledging a regular gift to the stained glass window project or sponsoring the total cost of restoring a window. A memorial plaque recognizing the sponsor of the window will be added if desired. Please let the church know which window you want to sponsor. The list and cost of each window restoration follows:

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 <sup>nd</sup>	\$6,710	12 Small above front door	\$4,000
4 Sanctuary, North Wall, 3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$6,710	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	\$6,710	15 South Tower, East Wall, High	\$7,250
7 Sanctuary, South Wall, 2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$6,710	16 Large, above front door	\$12,250
8 Sanctuary, South Wall, 3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$6,710	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 giving to the stained glass window restoration fund.

HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
WEST MILTON, OH  
NOT TO SCALE  
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**“Holiday Helping Hands”**  
**Milton-Union Council of Churches**

**2020 Christmas Food Boxes Nomination Form**  
for residents of West Milton and Union Township

Church/Person making nomination (may be self): \_\_\_\_\_

All information on this form is **confidential**. **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Gift Boxes are not intended to be a surprise.

In order to meet any specific needs, all nominees will be contacted by a representative of the Milton-Union Council of Churches.

**A phone number or way to contact the family or individual must be provided.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Members of Household**

Adults (Name)	Approx. age	Male/Female
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____

Children (Name)	age	Male/Female
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____

(add others on back if necessary)

**Return/Mail To:**     **Attention: Holiday Helping Hands**  
**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**1209 South Miami Street,**  
**West Milton, Ohio, 45383**

**YOU WILL BE CALLED TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR**  
**DEC. 18<sup>th</sup> FROM 9:00AM – 6:00PM TO PICK UP FOOD BOXES**  
**AT GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH,**  
**1209 SOUTH MIAMI STREET, WEST MILTON, OHIO, 698-5826**

**Deadline for Application is Dec. 11th**

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

X

Return Service Requested

Place Label Here

L

T O W E R S

T H E R S

November  
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