



THE TOWERS

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

October 2020

hoffman
united methodist church

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

TROUBLE

John 16:32-33 32 "But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me. 33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

It may not come as a surprise to many of you that I have had many occasions in which arriving at a conversation I will hear the words "Here comes Trouble!" Sometimes we do have people in our lives that it seems when they are around, "trouble" seems always nearby.

I was often told not to get "into trouble." Have you ever tried to define Trouble? Travis Tritt had a song about it, even spelled it out, but



it didn't seem to clarify the definition. I have noticed, and maybe you have too, I certainly recognize trouble once I am "in" it.

Jesus seemed to recognize trouble. I would have liked it if he said, "follow me and you'll have no troubles," which sounds a bit like an election campaign promise. But no, he did not say that. He said, "in this world you WILL have trouble...(emphasis added)" So, when the stores don't have the supplies we need, or the numbers for the virus are not going the direction we desire, I guess we shouldn't be surprised, for there WILL be trouble.

A time has already come that most of us were "scattered to our own homes" for the purpose of slowing the spread of COVID 19. This was not what Jesus was directly speaking about, but if you are like me, the words resonated all the same. And while none of us would claim to be Jesus, I'm certain the phrasing of being left "alone" resonated with some of you as well, sadly. To that end there is an expansion of our care ministries that will be making phone contact with more of our Hoffman family. The last few months have helped us realize how damaging the feelings of isolation can be for those who are alone either at home or in a care facility.

Lately the COVID numbers have not been as "frightening," and more and more of us are getting out, and there is of course

a desire for "normal" to resume, but I must caution that while efforts have been made to give as close to our normal worship experience as possible, things will likely never be exactly as they were before. This is just as much because we are all changed as a result of the last few months as it is because of present COVID-19 challenges. Having a regular online presence now adds tasks and challenges that we never had to worry about before. We are getting more comfortable with the setup, but there are still enough steps that I admit being a little unprepared for sanctuary conversation, and I have been guilty

of accidentally walking away from someone when I realize I've forgotten something. It is a side effect of being nearly alone while wrestling

through the tech challenges those first several weeks. Please bear with me as I adjust to having chats on Sunday again. Why, just this past Sunday I forgot where I left my sermon; one more step towards normal, right? 😊

There are many more steps toward normal to go, and I want to thank you for the support you have shown throughout this summer, and I ask for continued grace as we make our way forward together. If you have not received a pledge card in the mail, but you would like to prayerfully plan financial support for the work at Hoffman, you can either pick a card up here at the church building, or we can make other arrangements as well.

While we make our way through this year that has been unlike any other, my hope is that we will all remember the rest of the passage that started this page. Jesus said He told his followers there will be Trouble so He could give them peace. There is absolutely nothing else in this world that can give us peace. *Only the One who has OVERCOME the world can give us peace for the trouble IN the world.*

While trying to stay out of trouble, I am,

In His Service and Yours,

Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Devotions were led by John. John shared a personal story and a passage and prayer from Max Lucado.

Meeting Attendees

Dick Martens, Katie Poling, Carol Storer, David Jay, Julia Circle, Jill Circle, John Ankerman, Patti Wion, Dan Studebaker (zoom) and Pastor Robbie Scott

Pastor's Report

The July average attendance for 117 (online sign in plus attendance). Robbie shared a list of those church members, attendees and related who have passed this year for reflection. Norman has officially "retired" from Honda, which makes him more available. VBS went well with small family groups spread throughout the activity center. Becky is seeking financial support for Bulldog Bag support. Lunch Bunch has been a pickup service this summer. Kids Hope this fall will be via telephone. Prayer Walk for the school on Sunday, August 23. Becky sent a survey out to Hoffman families. There is a wide range of response with opposition of responses to work through in trying to make a safe, but welcoming children's ministry. Ignite youth has not been meeting over the summer, Joseph is planning some new events to reach out to different age ranges, of course with social distancing in mind. The Praise Band was hoping to plan an outdoor Sunday afternoon song fest in October, but logistic challenges may prevent it. Photo directory pictures have been rescheduled for Oct 23/24.

Finance

The finance report for July was reviewed and accepted. Cash balance coverage of weekly need has decreased slightly to 7.3 weeks, but is still acceptable. Real estate taxes were paid in July. John discussed pledge cards. Plans are to send cards out in October with clear instructions for returning.

Nominations

There was a discussion of the turnover of positions for 2021. A "freeze" of positions was proposed with people remaining in current positions for another year. The exception would be for Dick Martens to move to the Vice Chair position for one year. Nominations to solicit feedback from board members for a potential vote for September meeting.

Staff Parish Relations

A rough draft of 2021 budget was available for review with options for 0%, 1%, and 2% increases for staff. Initial discussion was held regarding staff increases.

Trustee Update

The installation of the last two Activity Center A/C units should happen soon, should have 15 year life . Versailles Painting will be sealing the brick on the towers. The new copier has been delivered and is working fine. The Safety committee selected a "Trauma Kit" which was purchased by the Methodist Women. It is installed in Activity Center near AED Unit in SW corner.

This chart is adapted to include both in-person AND estimated online attendance. We do request masks be worn while gathering and talking with one another, as well as while singing. We can still accommodate more to join us and still keep social distancing standards. :-)-rs

Date	8/30/20	9/6/20	9/13/20	9/20/20
General Offering	3175.00	3872.00	4494.00	3480.00
Weekly Budget Need	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00	4824.00
Mission Offering	80.00	475.00	130.00	40.00
Maintenance Fund	165.00	200.00	450.00	110.00
Building Fund & Memorials	250.00	448.00	395.00	135.00
Online & Physical Attendance				
9 a.m. Service at church	20	26	27	32
* Remote viewing	48	41	35	30
11:15 a.m. Service at church	15	20	20	18
* Remote viewing	21	24	30	19
Total Attendance	104	111	112	99

* '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 October 2020

1st - Greg & Lesli Raines (9 yrs)
 3rd - Riko Waymire
 4th - Dorothy Ginn
 Tina Mathews
 5th - Bill Brown
 6th - Karen McFadden
 7th - Ruthann King
 Phil & Sally Blue (59yrs)
 Paul & Gwenn Crow (53 yrs)
 10th - Kim Dohrman
 11th - Steve Kraus & Kay Wagner (23 yrs)
 12th - Ruth Hayes



13th - Joseph Knostman
 Nancy Wolf
 14th - Kyler Jay
 16th - David Hayes
 17th - Wendy Long
 20th - Richard & Marcia Smith (31 yrs)
 23rd - Robin Maeder
 27th - Darlene Duchene
 28th - Tim & Janet Benkert (31 yrs)
 29th - Jeff Ellinger
 Dick Porter
 31st - Marty Black
 Chelsi Jay
 Jim Wright

People to remember in prayer:



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

At Centers: Sandy Johannes, Grace Brethren, 1010 Taywood Rd, Rm 30, Englewood OH 45322
Joetta Perry, Storypoint Troy, 1840 Towne Park Drive, Rm 17, Troy, OH 45373

THANK YOU AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dear Hoffman Church, We want to thank you so much for all your thoughtfulness and kindness during this difficult time with the passing of our mom, Shirley Richhart. The meal after her funeral was such a blessing. The Richhart Family

All Saints Day Service Nov. 1st

Please call or email the church office (937)698-4401 or humchurch@gmail.com with the name and date of death of your loved ones who have passed away this past year and we will include their names during our services.

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

Women's "The Holy Spirit and You" class

rescheduled for this fall has been postponed until spring 2021. Details will follow.
Questions? call Mary Ann Martens (937) 719-3043

A special Veterans Day program honoring all Union Township veterans and their families will take place on Sunday, November 8th at 2 p.m. in the Activity Center. Everyone is invited. A video will be created to go along with stories submitted about each veteran featured. Organizers are asking anyone wanting to include family members to send pictures and stories, branch of service, and years served as quickly as possible. Your pictures will be returned. Information is sought now as it will take a while to coordinate all the information. Send your information to: Attention Nancy Studebaker, Hoffman United Methodist Church, 201 S. Main St.

If your address or phone number has changed in the last year, please email the church office at humchurch@gmail.com or call JoAnn at (937)698-4401 and make sure we have your correct information. New church phone directories will be printed in mid-October.

CROP Walk Sunday, October 11th at 2 p.m.
meet at Hoffman UMC
Questions contact Les T. at (937) 478-8093

October is Pastor and Staff Appreciation Month

We invite you to lift up Pastor Robbie and his family, as well as our Hoffman staff and their families with your prayers and any signs of appreciation you deem appropriate. Their love of Christ, service to Hoffman, and spirit of cooperation and teamwork are wonderful gifts to the church and community. Please keep Norman, JoAnn, Becky, Joseph, and of course Robbie in your prayers throughout the year but particularly have them in mind in October. Thank You, Carol Storer and Dan Studebaker, Staff-Parish Relations Co-Chairs.

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

*When things seem to be going all wrong, stop and affirm your Trust in God.
Calmly bring these matters to Him, and leave them in His capable hands . . . then
simply do the next thing. By Sarah Young*

Phone-A-Friend New Ministry

The Visitation Team has identified a need for a new ministry within our church, which we are naming the Phone-a-Friend Ministry. The purpose of the ministry will be to call our "Friends," who will be people who would enjoy receiving a call. The friends may be people who don't leave their house often for health reasons, for fear of the virus or other flues, lack of transportation or any other reason; people who live alone; and people who would enjoy a friendly community social connection.

God created us to live in community and we need these social interactions to feel fulfilled and connected to God's people. The encouragement that the Friends may get from these calls is immeasurable and is equally rewarding to the Callers. If you enjoy talking on the phone and/or enjoy staying in touch with our church family, please consider becoming a "Caller." You would make between one and five calls a week (you choose the number) and the calls would last from five to fifteen minutes each. If you have been thinking that God is moving you to become more involved in ministry but are afraid that you don't have much time to devote, this is a ministry that you can do from your home; it can take as little as five to twenty minutes a week and you can't be exposed to the coronavirus while doing it. 😊

If you are interested in becoming a "Caller," or want more information, please call Nancy Studebaker (937) 698-9967 or Shelia Shade (937) 698-4014. They have agreed to be co-chairs of this important new ministry.

If you are feeling isolated during this extended period of staying home and miss coming to church and other activities, this is an opportunity to stay in touch and become a "Friend," who will receive phone calls from the "Callers" and establish new friendships or enrich existing friendships. You may also call Nancy or Shelia to become a "Friend."

We would like to begin implementing this in early October. So, don't delay. Make your call today. Thank you for participating in this rewarding ministry.

Grandma's Kitchen

September's meal went well (We served 117 meals total for delivery, carryout and volunteers.) So we're going to do it again on October 14th. Those on our delivery routes really appreciated the meal. Please order carryout meals by Wednesday, October 7th so we can purchase and prepare enough food. Call Marilyn Mitchell at 937-947-1831, or if you can't reach her, the church office at 937-698-4401. Meals are \$7.00 (Exact change would be appreciated) and may be picked up between 5-6:00 pm.

Menu for October 14

Polish sausage
Cheesy potatoes
California salad
Angelic pineapple cake

Dear Church Family, It's time for a New Directory!

Celebrating faith. Connecting families. Sharing hope.

New Safety Procedures

Universal is committed to the health and safety of your church families & our employees.

We want you to know that we are taking the necessary precautions to reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

- Following 6 ft. Social Distancing rules throughout the photography process
- Germ guard plexiglass between customers & photographers at the viewing station
- All equipment will be disinfected between sittings
- Utilizing larger lobby rooms for safe social distancing
- Staff will be utilizing hand sanitizer between sittings

Join us for this "Family Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at your church!



New Safety Glass at Viewing Station



Family Connections Event

Our church directory will not be complete without you. Please join us and help celebrate faith and family with our new church family directory.

- Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at the church or simply go online and follow the instructions below.
If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.
- Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!
- Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at your church!
You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

Directory Committee

Set your appointment with Universal today!

1-888-742-5823



Picture Days are: Friday, October 23rd from 2 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 24th from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nancy Studebaker and Joy Paulus will begin calling soon to schedule appointments. If you have not been contacted by October 3rd please call Nancy Studebaker at (937) 698-9967.

2020 West Ohio Conference Annual Session Summary

The 51st West Ohio Annual Conference was a virtual gathering of nearly 1,600 clergy and lay members. Bishop Gregory V. Palmer presided over the conference under the theme, "Be Not Afraid, God Is With Us." Using the 23rd chapter of Revelation, Bishop Palmer preached about the uncertain times facing our nation, world and global church. He said, "In spite of the chaos; in spite of the wars; in spite of the rumors of war; in spite of the repression and suppression; in spite of tribalism; in spite of animus; in spite of our enmity; in spite of our alienation, God says, 'I'm going to make a home among you.' What a God! God does not abandon us. God is with us,"

Mitchell Harper and Shannon Spencer were affirmed as conference lay leaders for the 2021-24 quadrennium. Their work will focus on building relationships and sharing Christ's love throughout the conference. Tracy Chambers will continue as Director of Lay Servant Ministries for another four-year term. Bishop Palmer commissioned two West Ohio laywomen as deaconesses. Bishop Palmer commissioned one associate member, two provisional deacons and six provisional elders. He ordained four deacons and eight elders.

Recommendations for the 2021 Budget, Pension and Health Benefits, and Equitable Compensation were passed with overwhelming support. In summary:

- West Ohio will apportion \$ 15,660,000, which includes General Church Connectional Support. This represents a 6% reduction.
- Minimum salaries for clergy will increase at a rate of 2%.

Membership stands at 140,309 and worship attendance at 84,629 with an additional 10,561 online worshippers and 2,440 professions of faith.

The 52nd session of the West Ohio Annual Conference is scheduled for June 6-10, 2021.

Church 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.

X

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

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the **open door**
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Return Service Requested

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TOWERS
THERS

October
 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