



THE TOWERS

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

March 2022



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Held in Suspense

Genesis 3:19

By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return."

Some stories I share come with a concern that I will inadvertently distress someone because of their own memory, but I hope this story has no ill effect. Several months ago I was a part of a funeral and had a unique experience. The service of memorial had been completed at the funeral home, and the family had their last moments around the open casket. The casket was closed, locked, and solemnly transported to the hearse, where we then traveled to the cemetery plot, the final resting place for the body of the dearly departed.

The casket made its final journey across the ground as it was carried to the temporary structure above the plot opening. If one were to peer more closely, the chamber of the burial vault would be observed in the dark void. At most cemeteries a system of straps are utilized later to lower the casket, but during the short service, they temporarily hold the body in "suspense" above the opening. Despite the brevity of that particular service, one of the straps failed, and one end of the casket dropped several inches, as a collective audible "gasp" arose from those in attendance. Once the professionals assured that it was indeed secure, though no longer level, we continued and concluded the service with a prayer that included the words "...earth to earth; ashes to ashes; dust to dust."

That memory surfaced as I was pondering how to communicate Lent to you as we share it together for the 7th time. At the graveside there are often shared words from the book of common prayer, "in the midst of life we are in death..." Those words express the tension of life, how we in our fragile mortal bodies are in a sense "suspended" above the

chasm of death, somewhat symbolized (albeit, coincidentally) by the casket suspended over the vault void.

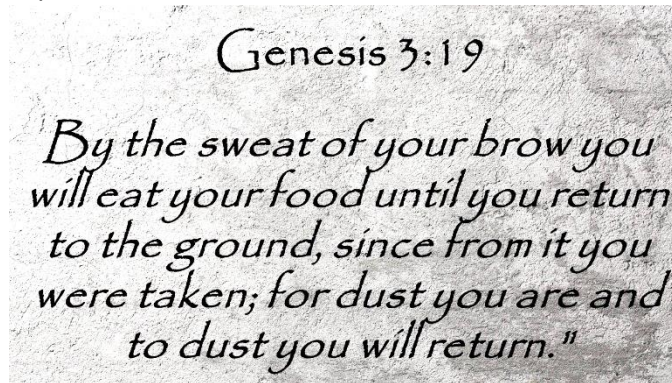
I hope I am not the only one who sees the obvious connection between the last actions at a cemetery and what we observe during the season of Lent. We are dust and to dust we will return. In the midst of life we are in death. The purpose of Lent in the Christian year is specifically to allow us to fully embrace the truth of our lives held in suspense. We are alive, and as such we breathe, we communicate, and we

contemplate all that happens around us. We have been reminded far too often, however, that the life we have here is fleeting and fragile, and more like the "mist" described in James that we would like to believe. The same is true of our holiness and righteousness, if we are brutally honest. Our physical lives are precarious, and our righteousness is a joke (or "filthy rags," if you prefer). So where can we find hope? Our

hope (of course) is in the Lord. The Lord Who brought humanity to life from the dust; the Lord Who gave His Son to be our Passover Lamb, our Sacrifice; the Lord Who Raised His Son from the dead (more on that later, we know how Lent ends!); the Lord Who puts the Holy Spirit in residence within us; the Lord who has prepared a home for us when this misty journey is done. Our hope then is not in our own strength, or in our own righteousness, but is rooted in the One who is unchanging and eternal. I for one am thankful beyond words. I am certain this is true for so many of you as well.

I pray this season of self-denial truly draws us nearer to the cross this Lenten season. I believe the closer we allow ourselves to reside at the foot of the cross, the more aware we can be of God's grace, and of the true "life" awaiting us and all who accept it for themselves.

While remembering I am dust, I am,
In His service and yours,



Serving Schedule

Mar 06

9:00 Liturgist: Mike C. **Greeters:** Wendy H. and Nancy L.
Ushers: Wayne & Susie S. and Phil & Karen M. **Hospitality Table:** Courtney Sims
Nursery: 10:15 Patti W. & Jenna M. / **11:15** Julia C. & Wendy H.
11:15 Greeters: Ben G., Julia C., & Kathy K. **Scripture Reader:** Andrew C.

Mar 13

9:00 Liturgist: Les T. **Greeters:** Elaine P. and Joy P.
Ushers: **Hospitality Table:** Paul & Sally Miller
Nursery: 10:15 Lesli R. & Kat G. / **11:15** Lesli R. & Lauren E.
11:15 Greeters: Dick & Mary Ann M. **Scripture Reader:** Julia C.

Mar 20

9:00 Liturgist: Wendy H. **Greeters:** Elaine I. and Cathy B.
Ushers: **Hospitality Table:** Jerry Kassa
Nursery: 10:15 Julia C. & Kathy K. / **11:15** Ben G. & Jenna M.
11:15 Greeters: Kathy W. and Ruth L. **Scripture Reader:** Ben G.

Mar 27

9:00 Liturgist: Les T. **Greeters:** Carol S. and Peggy N.
Ushers: **Hospitality Table:** John & Laverne Hennemyre
Nursery: 10:15 Jennifer K. & Jill C. / **11:15** Jennifer K. & Kim D.
11:15 Greeters: Paul & Sally M. and Marijo S. **Scripture Reader:** Beth T.

Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary March 2022

1st - Jerry Pinkerton
2nd - Pam Hitchcock
Hannah Scott
4th - Jim Mitchell
Cliff & Katie Poling (44yrs)
5th - Sophia Perkins
Linda Seman
6th - Jim Scammahorn
7th - Alex Morrow
10th - Lee Baker
Jerry Richards
11th - Zeke Moran
Mike & Denise Sanderson (33yrs)
12th - Ivie Markley
13th - Jim & Kathy Watkins (51 yrs)
15th - Wilma Fryman



17th - Jack Everage
18th - Evan Beard
Nan Guthrie
Larry Thoele
19th - Rosie Bryson
Matthew Burns
20th - Phil McFadden
Jim & Janet Balsbaugh (23yrs)
23rd - Winston Klepinger
24th - Dan & Erin Studebaker (21yrs)
25th - Eric Morrow
26th - Eames Circle
28th - Marilyn Mitchell
29th - Robert Cox
Marilyn Stickney

Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	01-23-22	01-30-22	02-06-22	02-13-22
General Offering	2626.00	5712.00	4982.00	6326.00
Weekly Budget Need	4793.00	4793.00	4793.00	4793.00
Mission Offering	85.00	325.00	180.00	195.00
Maintenance Fund	545.00	95.00	330.00	220.00
Building Fund & Memorials	40.00	35.00	210.00	235.00
Stained Glass Windows	.00	30.00	100.00	160.00
Online & Physical Attendance				
9 a.m. Service at church	15	28	36	45
* Remote viewing	37	46	35	30
11:15 a.m. Service at church	32	46	43	53
* Remote viewing	6	1	10	6
Total Attendance	90	121	124	134



* '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.

People to remember in prayer:



Hoffman Sympathies: to the family of Robert Sizemore, Wendy Heisey's father, as he passed away on February 12, 2022
to the family of Miriam Miller as she passed away on February 20, 2022

At Home: Phil Blue, Nan Guthrie, Valaria Harshbarger, Wilma Hoover, Helen Keller, Theda Klepinger, Winston Klepinger, Freda Koeller, Dick & Eugenie Markley, Mary Maess, Dixie Porter, Janice Turner, Jim & Kathy Watkins, Monica Winemiller, and Nancy Wolf

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
Monica Winemiller, Koester Pavillion, 3232 N Co Rd 25A Rm 74, Troy OH 45373

THANK YOU AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you church family for all your prayers for my family; they were very much appreciated.

Peggy Nihizer

Thank you for the luncheon after Ruth Ellen's funeral. Please accept this monetary gift to the United Methodist Women, as a sign of my and my families' appreciation.

Again Thanks, John Hayes

The Methodist Men would like to thank everyone who purchased our sausage this year which supports our mission projects. We didn't sell as much sausage as last year and our cost were higher, but we did make a profit and for that we are thankful. Enjoy your sausage.

The January 20th Church Board meeting was cancelled due to illness, therefore there are no highlights this month.

I would like to thank everyone for the 50+ cards, phone calls, text messages and surprise gifts for my 85th birthday. It was a great day!

God Bless,
Nancy Studebaker

Daylight Savings Time Begins March 13th

Remember to spring your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed on Saturday, March 12th.



Stained Glass Window Restoration Project



Amount Received: \$ 89,535

Total Project Goal : \$ 109,430

Thank You!

Grandma's Kitchen Meeting

Grandma's Kitchen will be having a meeting in the Multi-Purpose room on March 2 at 10:30am or for those who can't meet during the day, at 6:30pm. We need to know how many volunteers we will have this year in order to make decisions concerning Grandma's Kitchen. We are hoping to prepare two meals per month as we did last fall and to have both dine-in and carry-out/delivery but we will need volunteers to make that happen.

Please call Marilyn Mitchell (937-947-1831) if you have any questions or are interested in helping but unable to attend either of the meetings.

HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2022 FINANCE REPORT

General Budget and Missions Budget

January 31, 2022

		MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE
1010	First Sunday	4,288.00	4,288.00
1020	Second Sunday	5,486.00	5,486.00
1030	Third Sunday	2,494.00	2,494.00
1040	Fourth Sunday	2,601.00	2,601.00
1050	Fifth Sunday	5,712.00	5,712.00
Total Regular Offering		20,581.00	20,581.00
1060	Misc. Income	25.00	25.00
**Total Income		20,606.00	20,606.00

		BUDGET FOR YEAR	PAID OUT THIS MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE PAID OUT	BALANCE OF BUDGET
1	Conference Apportionments	18,234.00	1,519.50	1,519.50	16,714.50
2	District Adm. Apportionments	1,986.00	165.50	165.50	1,820.50
Total Local Apportionments		20,220.00	1,685.00	1,685.00	18,535.00

3	Hospitality	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
4	Outreach	250.00	13.00	13.00	237.00
5	Worship	750.00	0.00	0.00	750.00
6	Music	750.00	0.00	0.00	750.00
7	Media Subscriptions	3,030.00	986.32	986.32	2,043.68
8	Assimilation	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
9	Kids Hope	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
10	Youth Ministry	500.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Total Council of Ministries		5,830.00	999.32	999.32	4,830.68

OFFICE SUPPLY & FINANCE

11	Finance & Stewardship	900.00	59.74	59.74	840.26
12	Office Supplies & Postage	4,000.00	142.54	142.54	3,857.46
Total Administrative & Other Minist		4,900.00	202.28	202.28	4,697.72

13	Pastor Parish	250.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
14	Staff Salary	120,076.04	11,468.85	11,468.85	108,607.19
15	Health Ins. & Pension	39,531.72	3,189.33	3,189.33	36,342.39
16	Acct. Reimbursement-Pastor	4,000.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
17	Hoffman Family Benevolence	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
18	Pulpit Supply	500.00	100.00	100.00	400.00
19	Employer Payroll Taxes	5,834.27	511.39	511.39	5,322.88
20	Moving Allowance	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
21	Lakeside Conf Deligate	550.00	0.00	0.00	550.00
Total Staff & Parish Relations		172,042.03	15,269.57	15,269.57	156,772.46

22	Maintenance	1,500.00	281.50	281.50	1,218.50
23	Utilities	31,092.00	2,024.95	2,024.95	29,067.05
24	Building Insurance	4,868.00	1,222.50	1,222.50	3,645.50
25	Real Estate Taxes Parsonage	2,980.00	0.00	0.00	2,980.00
26	Snow Plowing & Yard Work	4,800.00	0.00	0.00	4,800.00
27	Supplies	1,000.00	22.54	22.54	977.46
Total Trustees		46,240.00	3,551.49	3,551.49	42,688.51

**Total General Budgeted Expenses		249,232.03	21,707.66	21,707.66	227,524.37
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MISSIONS BUDGET

28	Conference - World Services	5,000.00	416.63	416.63	4,583.37
29	District Mission Apportionments	1,986.00	165.50	165.50	1,820.50
30	MU Council of Churches	250.00	250.00	250.00	0.00
31	Annual Mission Project	600.00	0.00	0.00	600.00
32	Advanced Specials	547.50	0.00	0.00	547.50
Total Budgeted Missions Expense		8,383.50	832.13	832.13	7,551.37

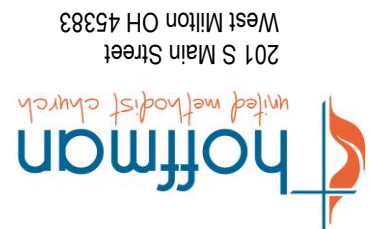
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Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. Postage Paid
Tipp City, OH
Permit No. 26



Return Service Requested

X

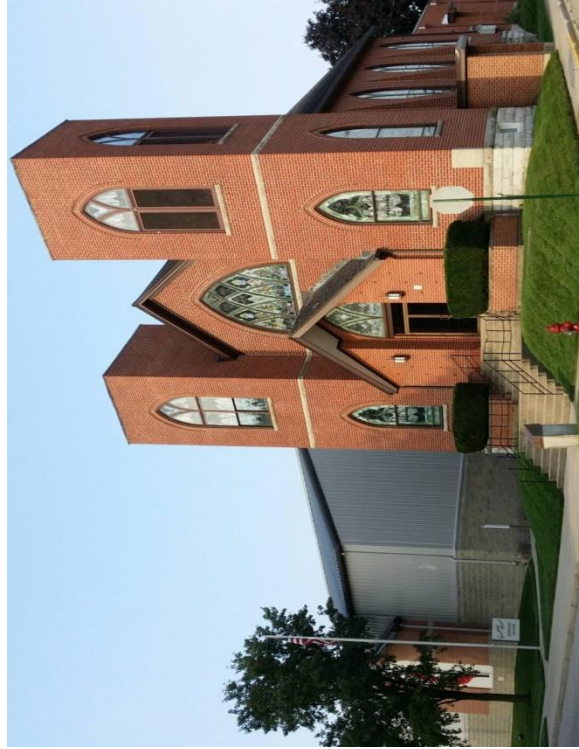


March
2022

TOWERS
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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