



# THE TOWERS

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

August 2022



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

*Messy Stories*

**2 Chronicles 34:1-3 Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem thirty-one years. He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD and walked in the ways of his father David, not turning aside to the right or to the left. In the eighth year of his reign, while he was still young, he began to seek the God of his father David. In his twelfth year he began to purge Judah and Jerusalem of high places, Asherah poles, carved idols and cast images.**

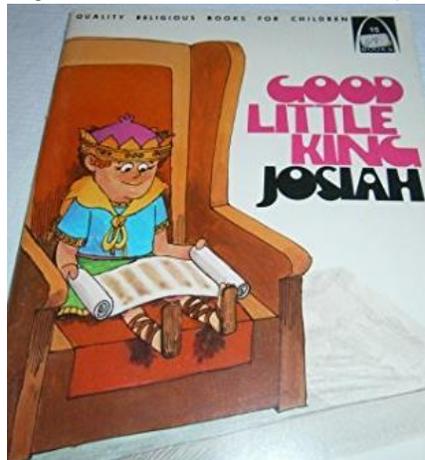
This summer marks the start of our 8th year together. I have a hard time believing so much time has passed. In 2015 my daughter was just ready to start 6th grade, and my son 2nd grade. She starts at Kent State this fall as he enters high school, gulp! A lot can happen over the course of 7 years. A lot has happened over these 7 years together.

Just for fun I thought I would look through the Bible and see if there were any significant events that happened in the "8th year." It would have been more fun if we had a story about Jesus in his 8th year, but we don't. The Gospels jump from the birth narrative to the family's escape to Egypt, and then to Nazareth, and then nothing is written until his trip to Jerusalem with his parents at the age of 12. Unfortunately, most anything that relates to an 8th year is associated with kings. And while I think my birthday should be a royal holiday, it is a big stretch to connect our history to the history of kings. In my research I noted that Nebuchadnezzar was in his 8th year as ruler of Babylon when he invaded Israel and exiled the Jews. While that is interesting :-)

The account of King Josiah occupies a soft spot in my heart. As soon as my research came across this story I remembered as a child at my home church in Vinton County how there were children's books of various characters and accounts all throughout the sanctuary, at the ends of the pews. I have a few hazy memories of going through those on a Sunday morning, trying to decide which story I wanted to read about during the service. I only can remember a couple of the storybook titles, but one was "The Pearl of Great Price," and the other was "Good Little King Josiah." Josiah was 8 years old when he became king. In the 8th year of his reign he started actively pursuing the ways of God. This means he was around 16 years old when he started taking his faith more seriously. It might be more accurate to say

he started taking his God more seriously. By the time he was 20, he started removing from the kingdom of his rule all the carved and the cast idols that were in place from years past. Now, his zeal for this work included burning the bones of priests that served other gods on their altars.. I'm pretty sure I didn't read that in that children's book so long ago.

This is true of many great stories, isn't it? I have more than a few stories I have told through the years. I used to hold back part of the story due to a slight embarrassment factor, but in recent years have tried not to do that, as the story is less genuine if I leave out those elements that made the moments "real." I admit I miss the simplicity of those books of my childhood. A story about



an interesting character and the good things they did, capped off with a moral for our everyday lives. Nice and simple. Our lives are not so simple, and our own stories many times include personal failings and broken relationships that make our stories "messy." One of the many things I appreciate about the Holy Scriptures is that humanity is and has always been complicated. I hate to tell you this, but it is true of our institution, and national histories, as well as even our own congregational history. There usually is some part of our history we would prefer not to tell.

Our beloved country's history includes moments that are certainly messy. One of the stories I share in membership class is the messy history of Methodism by way of the Anglican Church and a king wanting a divorce that the pope would not grant, so the king made himself head of a new church. So messy! Despite our collective and individual messy stories, God has continued to work with and through humanity. Josiah is one of the few shining examples in the Old Testament of a king who actively sought God. I pray our zeal for serving God always stays focussed on Him, and not on our ideal of what we think it should look like to serve God. The difference may be hard to spot. It is easy to set our eyes on the messy institutions under God, rather than simply on God. Maybe those simple books of my childhood were more helpful than I thought.

While trying never to forget Who I serve, I am,  
In His Service and yours,



## Board Meeting Highlights

### Devotions

Devotions were offered by Janet. She shared about the theme of the West Ohio Annual Conference - "Becoming". She shared from 1 John 3:2. Meeting was opened with a prayer by Janet.

### Meeting Attendees

Katie Poling, Les Trittschuh, Wendy Black, David Jay, Julia Circle, Jill Circle, John Ankerman, Patti Wion, Janet Benkert, Chris Long, Pastor Robbie Scott

### Mission and Ministry

Janet reported on the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference. There were 8 recommendations that required action. Recommendations passed by the conference included:

Amendments to rules of the Annual Conference

Budget for 2023

Board of pensions and health- no changes

Equitable compensation increased minimum salary by 3%

Reducing the number of districts in West Ohio to 6

Support for conference delegates to endorse amicable separation for Local Churches and Annual Conferences

The recommendation to consider candidates for ordained ministry regardless of their sexual identity failed to pass.

The conference closed 8 churches, but also started 18 new faith communities representing 2300 new worshippers. The Conference has given >\$250,000 to Ukraine. We ordained 12 elders, 4 deacons, 3 provisional deacons and 5 provisional elders. In addition, 54 clergy retired.

### Pastor's Report

The attendance for May 9:00 am 58.2 (-5 vs April) (in person) and 15.6 (-8) (online) 11:15 62.8 (+4) (in person) and 4.2 (-2) (online). Miami Valley District Spring Meeting went well. Pastor Robbie delivered cards to Rev Dr. Roper to celebrate retirement and welcomed Rev Dr. Wilson. Mission trip has been canceled. Pastor Robbie is giving a talk at the Dayton Women's Emmaus retreat in July. Two new banners for the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade are available and will hang in the activity center. Robbie participated in the library summer programming with a juggling presentation. Robbie has completed his required sexual ethics training offered by the conference.

### Trustees

The storage building was painted. North Tower renovation is scheduled to begin July 5. Obtaining quotes for sealing the parking lot. Liability insurance discussion held with the board accepting the Trustee's Recommendation effective Sept 1, 2022 to affect new bookings regarding requirements for liability coverage for use of the facility for non-church events.

### Finance

The finance report for May was reviewed and accepted. The weeks of Operations 8.67; this reflects an improvement over April.

**Nominations** No report

**Staff Parish Relations** No report

### Non-agenda items:

July 26 Safe Sanctuary Training or

Aug 4 Safe Sanctuary Training

July 28-Aug 9 Pastor Robbie Vacation

Aug 5-7 Art Show

Aug 7 Church Picnic

## Serving Schedule

### Aug 7<sup>th</sup>

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

### Aug 14<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 Liturgist:** Wendy H. **Greeters:** Elaine P. and Joy P.  
**Ushers:** **Hospitality Table:** Carol S.  
**Nursery: 10:15** Lesli R. & Kat G. /**11:15** Lesli R. & Lauren E.  
**11:15 Greeters:** Dick & Mary Ann M. **Scripture Reader:** Beth T.

### Aug 21<sup>st</sup>

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

### Aug 28<sup>th</sup>

**9:00 Liturgist:** Les T. **Greeters:** Carol S. and Peggy N.  
**Ushers:** **Hospitality Table:** Jim & Kathy W.  
**Nursery: 10:15** Jennifer K. & Jill C. /**11:15** Jennifer K. & Kim D.  
**11:15 Greeters:** Paul & Sally M. and Marijo S. **Scripture Reader:** Norman H.

## Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary August 2022

2<sup>nd</sup> - Jim & Belinda Wright (31 yrs)  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Karra Beard  
Mary Maess  
5<sup>th</sup> - David Bryson  
Ty Raines  
7<sup>th</sup> - Sarah Harris  
Fred & Cathy Brown (56 yrs)  
9<sup>th</sup> - Phil Blue  
11<sup>th</sup> - Bev Brubaker  
12<sup>th</sup> - Jerid Raines  
13<sup>th</sup> - Jayce Lawhorn  
15<sup>th</sup> - Tammy Lugabihl  
Dustin & Chelsi Jay (7 yrs)



17<sup>th</sup> - Wayne Spitler  
20<sup>th</sup> - Shirley Garreth  
Scott Johnston  
Richard Smith  
21<sup>st</sup> - Pastor Robbie Scott  
22<sup>nd</sup> - Lilly Pritchard  
24<sup>th</sup> - Dean Bryson  
Chris Harris  
27<sup>th</sup> - Janet Willis  
28<sup>th</sup> - Dick & Mary Ann Martens (62 yrs)  
30<sup>th</sup> - John & Pam Hitchcock (19 yrs)  
Emily Benkert  
31<sup>st</sup> - Katie Poling

## Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	06-26-22	07-03-22	07-10-22	07-17-22
General Offering	3015.00	6635.00	4413.00	5772.00
Weekly Budget Need	4793.00	4793.00	4793.00	4793.00
Mission Offering	85.00	385.00	240.00	225.00
Maintenance Fund	460.00	305.00	105.00	95.00
Building Fund & Memorials	385.00	455.00	100.00	168.00
Stained Glass Windows	300.00	25.00	.00	.00
Online & Physical Attendance				
9 a.m. Service at church	53	58	58	54
* Remote viewing	23	24	19	30
11:15 a.m. Service at church	48	72	48	38
* Remote viewing	4	5	5	5
Total Attendance	128	159	130	127



*Thank you*  
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

**Stained Glass Window Restoration Project**    Amount Received: \$ 93,820  
 Total Project Goal: \$ 109,430    *Thank You!*

### GRANDMA'S KITCHEN August/September 2022 MENUS

HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

201 S. MAIN STREET, WEST MILTON 698-4401    Website: HoffmanUMC.org

SERVING the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> WEDNESDAYS BEGINNING AT 5:00 to 6:15 P.M.

PUBLIC INVITED \* CARRY-OUTS AVAILABLE \* \$7 DONATION PER MEAL \* Kids Meal \$3

August 10<sup>th</sup>  
 Chicken and Noodles  
 Mashed Potatoes  
 Peas  
 Cherry Trifle

August 24<sup>th</sup>  
 Beef Hot Shots  
 Mashed Potatoes  
 Corn  
 Ice Cream Sundae

September 14<sup>th</sup>  
 Lasagna  
 Tossed Salad  
 Garlic Bread  
 Watergate Salad

September 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Chicken Casserole  
 Green Beans with Ham  
 Applesauce  
 Ice Cream Sundae

Menu items are subject to change

## People to remember in prayer:



**At Home:** Phil Blue, Valaria Harshbarger, Wilma Hoover, Helen Keller, Theda Klepinger, Winston Klepinger, Dick & Eugenie Markley, Mary Maess, Dixie Porter, Jim & Kathy Watkins, 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 29A, Troy OH 45373  
Freda Koeller, Randall Residence of Tipp City, 6400 S Co. Rd. 25A, Rm 109, Tipp City OH 45371  
Wendy Long, Trinity Center, 789 Stonybrook, Rm 208A, Fairborn OH 45324  
Jennie McNeal, SpringMeade, 4375 S Co. Rd. 25A, Rm 307, Tipp City OH 45371  
Janice Turner, Randall Residence of Troy, 2900 Corporate Dr., Rm 105, Troy OH 45373  
Monica Winemiller, Koester Pavilion, 3232 N Co Rd 25A Rm 74, Troy OH 45373

## THANK YOUS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Art Show

Opening Reception: Aug 5th 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Show Hours: Aug 6th 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Aug 7th 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thanks to everyone who donated items, helped setup or cleanup or shopped at the rummage sale. It was a big success raising **\$572!** We donated the remaining items to the ReStore, Gleaning Place, Well of Hope Shoes, Family Abuse Shelter of Miami County and Ludlow Falls Christian Church.

Church Family, thank you so much for the prayers, cards, and concerns before and after my knee surgery. I still have about two weeks of recovery then I can get active. Again, thanks to you all, Jim Wright (aka Santa)

Thank you so much for the generosity and support you've shown me. I really appreciate the gift and your presence in my life.  
Joel Benkert

### Chancel Choir

It is time for choir season to begin again. We will have our first choir rehearsal on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to come join this celebration of praises to God. We will be in the choir loft on Sunday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>. Come join the fun as we lift our voices to praise God. If you have any questions, please see or call Norman H. at (937) 698-3280 or (937) 689-4064.

### Annual Hoffman UMC Picnic

**Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 p.m. to ?**

at the home of Marty and Wendy Black at 5839 S Jay Road, West Milton. We will swim, beginning at 2:30 p.m., so dress accordingly. Dinner will be ready at 5:30p.m. This will be a carry-in dinner with meat, condiments, table service, and drinks provided. Please bring a covered dish to share and a folding chair . . . which you don't have to share. . . questions please call Mike C. at (937) 623-5731.

Thank you all so much for your cards, prayers, hugs, talks, and the wonderful meal. The Nan Guthrie Family

### Welcome New Members to Our Hoffman UMC Family

Jerry Smith

Jeryl-Ann Kassa

Jim & Janet Balsbaugh

Dear Friends, Thank you for all of your prayers, cards, and phone calls during my recent appendectomy. Your support gave me strength and your prayers quickened my healing.

You all are appreciated. Love, Kay

### Bell Choir

It is also time for bell choir so I am looking for people willing to ring a couple bells every week. There is a lot of fun and good fellowship at these rehearsals so come join us. Our first rehearsal will be Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.. Anyone interested please give Norman Hiester a call at (937) 698-3280 or (937) 689-4064.

# LIFEWISE ACADEMY



## LifeWise Milton-Union, Coming this Fall!

In addition to their regular classes, parents/guardians have the option to enroll students in grades K-5 in LifeWise Academy.

- ◆ Students will attend classes during the day on a schedule that fits the school's class rotation
- ◆ Chaperones will transport students to and from LifeWise

## LifeWise Milton-Union Launch Meeting

Join us as we provide information about this school year and the opportunity to begin registering students!

**When:** Tuesday, August 9th, from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Hoffman United Methodist Church  
Presentation and children's activity beginning at 6:30.

**We are searching for an excellent team! Teachers ◆ Fundraising Committee ◆ Volunteers**  
Visit our website to learn more [lifewisecademy.org/milton-unionoh](http://lifewisecademy.org/milton-unionoh)

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



Dates to Write Down:

**Aug. 4:** If you were not able to come to the July safe sanctuaries training, please come to this one!! 6:30PM

**Aug. 21:** Blessings of the Backpacks and Prayer Walk (4PM)

**Aug. 22:** Teacher Luncheon

Wanted  
Nursery workers- one Sunday a month  
Sunday School Teachers- one month  
on and two months off

Traditional Service  
9AM



Sunday School Hour  
10:15-11:10AM



Open Door Service  
11:15AM

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

## HOFFMAN UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 2022 FINANCE REPORT

### General Budget and Missions Budget

June 30, 2022

			MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE
1010	First Sunday		4,305.00	31,302.75
1020	Second Sunday		4,449.00	30,090.25
1030	Third Sunday		6,372.00	30,732.00
1040	Fourth Sunday		3,015.00	20,237.00
1050	Fifth Sunday		0.00	11,154.00
Total Regular Offering			18,141.00	123,516.00
1060	Misc. Income		60.00	785.90
<b>**Total Income</b>			18,201.00	124,301.90

		BUDGET FOR YEAR	PAID OUT THIS MONTH	YEAR-TO-DATE PAID OUT	BALANCE OF BUDGET
1	Conference Apportionments	18,234.00	1,519.50	9,117.00	9,117.00
2	District Adm. Apportionments	1,986.00	165.50	993.00	993.00
Total Local Apportionments		20,220.00	1,685.00	10,110.00	10,110.00
3	Hospitality	200.00	0.00	0.00	200.00
4	Outreach	250.00	0.00	13.00	237.00
5	Worship	750.00	0.00	16.83	733.17
6	Music	750.00	0.00	49.94	700.06
7	Media Subscriptions	3,030.00	94.44	2,439.52	590.48
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	94.44	2,519.29	3,310.71

#### OFFICE SUPPLY & FINANCE

11	Finance & Stewardship	900.00	18.00	362.83	537.17
12	Office Supplies & Postage	4,000.00	859.98	1,667.03	2,332.97
Total Administrative & Other Minist		4,900.00	877.98	2,029.86	2,870.14

13	Pastor Parish	250.00	0.00	0.00	250.00
14	Staff Salary	120,076.04	8,850.47	59,513.41	60,562.63
15	Health Ins. & Pension	39,531.72	3,354.03	19,794.78	19,736.94
16	Acct. Reimbursement-Pastor	4,000.00	365.57	1,481.16	2,518.84
17	Hoffman Family Benevolence	300.00	0.00	0.00	300.00
18	Pulpit Supply	500.00	0.00	100.00	400.00
19	Employer Payroll Taxes	5,834.27	423.80	2,791.70	3,042.57
20	Moving Allowance	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00
21	Lakeside Conf Deligate	550.00	0.00	0.00	550.00
Total Staff & Parish Relations		172,042.03	12,993.87	84,681.05	87,360.98

22	Maintenance	1,500.00	0.00	1,787.62	(287.62)
23	Utilities	31,092.00	1,372.66	12,260.02	18,831.98
24	Building Insurance	4,868.00	0.00	3,667.50	1,200.50
25	Real Estate Taxes Parsonage	2,980.00	0.00	1,476.43	1,503.57
26	Snow Plowing & Yard Work	4,800.00	510.00	2,867.00	1,933.00
27	Supplies	1,000.00	42.99	260.34	739.66
Total Trustees		46,240.00	1,925.65	22,318.91	23,921.09

<b>**Total General Budgeted Expenses</b>		249,232.03	17,576.94	121,659.11	127,572.92
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#### MISSIONS BUDGET

28	Conference - World Services	5,000.00	416.67	2,499.98	2,500.02
29	District Mission Apportionments	1,986.00	165.50	993.00	993.00
30	MU Council of Churches	250.00	0.00	250.00	0.00
31	Annual Mission Project	600.00	0.00	600.00	0.00
32	Advanced Specials	547.50	0.00	0.00	547.50
Total Budgeted Missions Expense		8,383.50	582.17	4,342.98	4,040.52

X

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



Return Service Requested

X

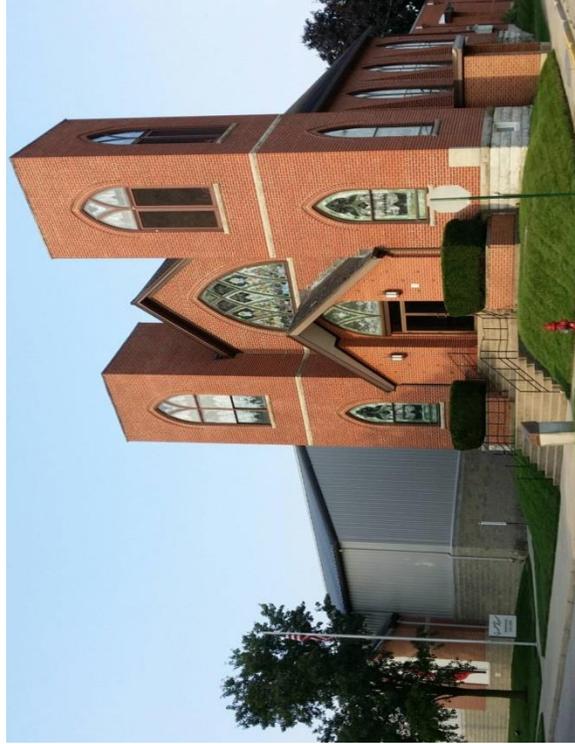


August  
 2022

TOWERS  
 THESE

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