



THE TOWERS

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

September 2022



A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

Transition Times

Acts 20:35-21:1 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: "It is more blessed to give than to receive." When [Paul] had said this, he knelt down with all of them and prayed. They all wept as they embraced him and kissed him. What grieved them most was his statement that they would never see his face again. Then they accompanied him to the ship. After we had torn ourselves away from them, we put out to sea and sailed straight to Cos.

The year was 1989. The place was Houston, Texas, where on my 18th birthday my parents and I transported some personal items into my dormitory room on the 5th floor of the South Tower on the University of Houston campus. We walked around the campus grounds, went to a local Pizza Hut and ate pizza together. They purchased an extra "Meat Lovers" pizza, and after some awkward small talk, we said our goodbyes and I watched as the 1977 Lincoln drove away. I stood there for a little bit, and made my way up to my room, where my pizza went into my desk drawer and was eaten on over the next 3 days or so (true story). I was told later that my mom cried all the way through the Smokey Mountains on the way home...and I never got sick from the pizza. 😊

This is the time of year when many households go through difficult transitions. There are children starting preschool or kindergarten, and that first day will hit the parents and caregivers uniquely and with a wide range of emotion attached. There will be joy, relief, sadness and grief through all these transitions, from the 1st day of preschool to the 1st day of senior year to the 1st day of college to wedding days and career beginnings. Of course there is underlying joy for this soul who is precious to you, but every one of these transitions comes with change that can be painful. Whatever our relationship with this child was before, it will not be the same after this transition. Even when we don't know what will be "lost" in the change, there is an amount of grief, sometimes small, sometimes overwhelming.

This passage is an account of Paul saying final goodbyes to the saints of the church at Ephesus, and the emotion around that

event. He reminded them of the good work accomplished there, and was putting them through his prayers under the care of God. In this passage Paul was plainly telling them that they were not going to see his face again, which added to the difficulties. In the case of the transitions I've mentioned, we are expecting to see the child again after school that day, or at an upcoming weekend or holiday or event, and the time seems to pass so slowly while enduring the wait.

I do realize there are and have been other transitions as well, for those who have stepped into eternity. Sometimes there have been moments of last words and goodbyes, and sometimes not, but for those who have put their hope in Christ, there is an anticipation of seeing the loved one again, but oh, the waiting!

I feel that sometimes these transitions make us feel like we are

under examination. What I mean is, when we first release our beloved into the care of others, we might wonder if we prepared that young soul to receive instructions from others, to be courteous and kind to their fellow students and to the teachers. When the next step is college, we might wonder if we did everything we could to have them

prepared for the rigors of the studies and the assignments that they have to be able to complete with their own motivation. By the time you read this, I will have left my firstborn at a college institution all while immersed in all my feelings of pride, excitement, joy, worry, sadness, and everything else rolled into one evening. I'm fairly certain that tears will be involved. I hope I've done everything I can that she is ready for this step.

As so many loved ones have in recent years stepped from this life to the next, there is the hope that we have done all that we could to assure a heavenly reunion. In some ways our politics have become much easier to talk about than our faith, but it is our faith that has eternal consequences, and death reveals the grad of our final exam.

With each Sunday School class, and sermon, and conversation, and "lecture," and prayer, we are hoping and praying we have done all we can to prepare this beloved one for the next transition. May God grant us the ability to glimpse the fruits of our labors for all these transitions. While saying "I'm not crying, you're crying!" I am,
In His Service and yours,





Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Devotions were shared by Wendy Heisey from a narrative - "Dropping your Rock" by Nicole Johnson. "Rocks don't hit sin, they hit people". Meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Robbie.

Meeting Attendees

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

Mission and Ministry

LifeWise program for religious education for elementary students at Milton-Union update was shared. There will be an informational Open House August 9 The tentative start date is October 26.

Pastor's Report

The average June attendance was: 127.5 (-13 May). VBS was a success with an average of 39 children per night. Becky is looking at options for next year's VBS which will move back to July. Plans for prayer walk and teacher luncheon in August are underway. The 4th of July Parade went well. Welcome mugs supply is low. The plan is to continue to brainstorm a new "welcome gift" when the supply runs out. During Lent, Pastor Robbie began an online broadcast on Wed. afternoons at 3:00pm using a format of Scripture Readings, Reflection Readings, and prayer using "Guide to Prayer". He has continued to provide this because it is easily sustainable and is good engagement. It was rated as a "top broadcast" in Facebook analytics.

Finance

The finance report for June was accepted. Current giving Weeks of Operations is 8.74. Endowment fund is down 15.8% since the beginning of the year.

Board approved for the Trustees Maintenance line item to increase to budget excess of 1,000.

Trustees

Board approved Action Paving to crack seal, seal coat, and stripe the parking lot and for removal of the tree at the Parsonage. Julia and Patti will create a communication for future facility use.

Facility Use Requirements for Liability Insurance

-Non-profit fundraisers: name HUMC on existing policy or purchase event policy w/ \$1 million coverage (approx. \$100-150 per event)

-Church functions: covered w/ current policy according to our insurer

-Large organizations: provide copy of insurance policy naming HUMC as an insured party or if the org doesn't have insurance, purchase event policy w/ \$1 million coverage

-Non-attending people hosting a personal event: purchase event policy w/ \$1 million coverage (approx. \$100-150 per event)

-Attending people hosting a personal event: not required, but highly suggested to purchase an event policy w/\$1 million coverage.

Nominations No report

Staff Parish Relations No report

Non-agenda items

Katie announced she will be stepping down as chair of the board due to moving to Columbus. As of September, Les will assume chairman duties. August board meeting canceled.

Aug 21 Blessings of Backpacks, School Prayer Walk

Aug 22 Teacher Luncheon

Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	07-24-22	07-31-22	08-07-22	08-14-22
General Offering	3268.00	2406.00	7047.00	3275.51
Weekly Budget Need	4793.00	4793.00	4793.00	4793.00
Mission Offering	170.00	525.00	1580.00	240.00
Maintenance Fund	130.00	645.00	450.00	30.00
Building Fund & Memorials	140.00	60.00	235.00	30.00
Stained Glass Windows	.00	200.00	190.00	50.00
Online & Physical Attendance				
9 a.m. Service at church	39	49	56	45
* Remote viewing	31	18	18	24
11:15 a.m. Service at church	57	49	36	27
* Remote viewing	8	4	Not online	9
Total Attendance	135	120	110	105



Stained Glass Window Restoration Project

Amount Received: \$ 94,260

Total Project Goal: \$ 109,430 *Thank You!*

Jots From Jim...

Don't let anyone or anything steal your joy. Live in Jesus, love Jesus, and share Jesus generously!

(Rev. Dr. Jim Wilson, Miami Valley District Superintendent) *copied from the August 2022 District Newsletter*

One night this week I was returning home from a meeting. It's a strange feeling now not really having a home community but sharing and traveling thru many communities. It was getting late and I wanted to grab a late bite for supper. I walked in this old-style restaurant, half-full of patrons, and ordered fish and chips. One of the employees came by and said, "what do I have to do to get you to smile?" We joked and I avoided a true answer but the question lingered in my mind. Had I lost my smile? What does make me smile?

Don't panic. I am still smiling. 😊 But I have shared with countless people that nobody or nothing should ever steal one's joy. For me personally I have smiling goat pictures all around to remind me to stay joy-filled. But the other question, "what makes us smile" is a powerful point of reflection. What makes one smile?

I smile when I hear incredible stories throughout the Miami Valley District of churches doing amazing ministries. One pastor passes out hams door to door while another pastor allows the showers in the church to be used by the homeless. I smile when I go to the dog park and see our black lab make new friends and continues to show he is faster than any other dog so far. I smile when I finish another long, long day and wonder why God has called me to such a time and place and opportunity that I currently have in ministry. I am convinced that God surely has a sense of humor.

So I ask you, the people of the Miami Valley District, what makes you smile? And are you still smiling? Don't let anyone or anything steal your joy. Live in Jesus, love Jesus, and share Jesus generously this weekend as you worship.

Jim

People to remember in prayer:



Hoffman Sympathies to:

the family of Steve Nankivell, Peggy Nihizer's brother, as he passed away on July 29, 2022

At Home: Kim Adams, Phil Blue, Valaria Harshbarger, Wilma Hoover, Helen Keller, Theda Klepinger, Winston Klepinger, Dick & Eugenie Markley, Mary Maess, Dixie Porter, Shelia Shade, Marilyn Stickney, 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 YOU AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many, many thanks for the cards and prayers during my recent cancer surgery. The love and support of Hoffman Church means so much to Jerry and me.

Libby Richards

Winter Walking Group Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 10 to 11a.m. beginning October 3rd join us in the activity center; Contact Elaine Pickering (937) 698-5192

Chancel Choir

It is time for choir season to begin again. We will have our first choir rehearsal on Wednesday, September 7th 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. 11th. 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.

To my Methodist church family, I want to say a great big thank you for all the cards and prayers for my family with my brother's passing. Another great big thanks to the ladies who prepared lunch for my family; we all appreciated all your hard work. God Bless you all!

The Nankivell Family

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 13th at 6:30 p.m.. Anyone interested please give Norman H a call at (937) 698-3280 or (937) 689-4064

Hoffman UMC Phone Directory will be updated in mid-October, if your address or phone number has changed in the last year, email JoAnn at humchurch@gmail.com or call (937)698-4401 and make sure we have your correct information.

Dear Hoffman Family and Friends,

We are moving! We sold our house and found a new one in Columbus, where we will be closer to grandchildren. We will miss you all and cherish our memories made while serving by your side. We came in 1984 and found Hoffman to be a friendly and active church. We have grown a lot in the last 38 years, both spiritually and progressively. Thanks for your friendship. Yes, we are moving, but we won't be far. Our doorstep will always be open. Here is our new address: 981 Adin Trail Court, Columbus, Ohio 43235

Blessings to you all,
Cliff and Katie Poling

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



A huge thank you to everyone who came to the safe sanctuaries trainings! If you were not able to attend, please reach out to Becky!

Also, a BIG thank you to everyone who came to the prayer walk and helped with the teacher luncheon. Both events were much appreciated!!

New classes starting in September

PreK downstairs 5-6th room 6

1-4th upstairs room 5

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

LIFEWISE ACADEMY



LIFEWISE ACADEMY IS AT MILTON-UNION THIS FALL

LifeWise Milton-Union is now enrolling students.

Classes start Tuesdays November 1, 2022

Registration deadline is October 18, 2022

Register and find more information at: lifewiseacademy.org/milton-unionoh

Looking for ways to volunteer or support financially?

Scan the QR Code!



Fall Women's Wednesday Morning Bible Study The Art of Neighboring

What would our communities look like if we took Jesus' command to love our neighbors as ourselves as seriously as we should? For many of us, it can be tempting to keep our distance and mind our own business in our neighborhoods. But is that really how God wants us to live? As followers of Jesus, we've been called to love both God and our neighbors. It's easier said than done, but we can build deep connections with the people in our neighborhoods and, in doing so, please God.

New to Bible study? This study might be a good place to start. It is less 'study' and more 'application' using several key passages in the Bible. It is also a fairly short commitment, a 7-session series based on the book, **The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door**. Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon help us focus on the people within our neighborhoods and learn what it means to be a good neighbor. They discuss the importance of pushing through the uncomfortable feelings that come with communicating with, investing in, and caring for the people who live near us.

Please join us for this study beginning on Wednesday, October 5th, from 9-10:30 am in the Multi-Purpose Room and meet some of your 'church neighbors' as well as find ways to connect with those who live just beyond your front door.

Please let me know by September 12th if you will be joining the class so books can be ordered. Books are \$9. To register, or if you have questions, please call Marilyn Mitchell, 937-947-1831 or 937-416-8077



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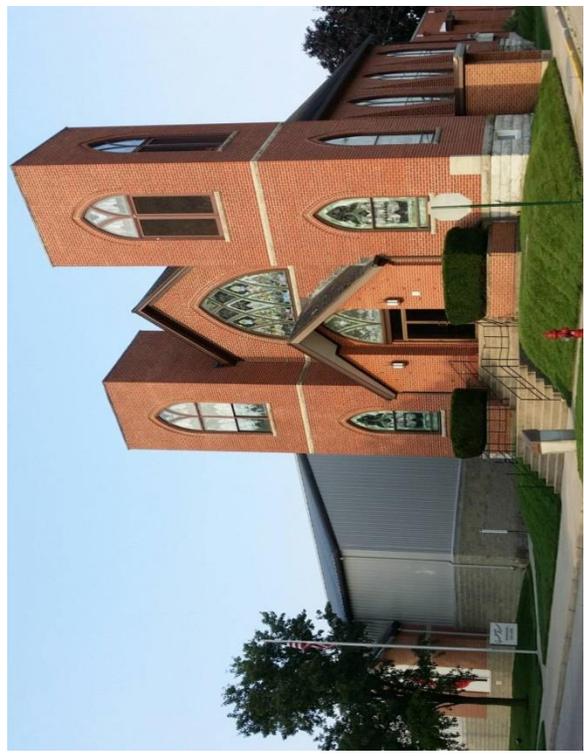


September
 2022

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