



THE TOWERS

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

January 2023

A WORD FROM OUR PASTOR

2023



Exodus 17:10-13 So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up-- one on one side, one on the other-- so that his hands remained steady till sunset. So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.

We have come to the end of another calendar year. Personally, I am stunned how quickly time seems to go by. I know from some of our conversations that this is a common occurrence, particularly as we get more, *ahem*, seasoned.

Moses was called into service as an octogenarian, so he was of a certain vintage, one could say, by the time of this battle. We are told that at the end of his life Moses had clear eyes and mind, but I'm certain his body had limited strength. Whether or not we have a complete understanding on why the army fought better with his arms raised, I think it is fair to say that without help, the battle likely would have been lost. You might notice there is no mention of Moses arguing against assistance.

It is amazing how the argument of young children "I can do it myself" can be a repeated argument when we are on the downslope of the metaphorical "hill," "I can do it myself" when the younger versions of ourselves intervene in our actions. The irony would be comedic were it not so frustrating.

The difficult truth is that we need help in all seasons of our lives. Even in Genesis the Lord declares it isn't good for humanity to go it alone. It was the first moment in creation that was Not good, and in nearly every translation of the original text, before the use of the word spouse, husband or wife, the word for the second one to be created included some understanding of a helper. While it isn't in the text, I wonder if Adam might have or would have argued, "I don't need anyone, God. I named all these animals myself. I think this is a pretty good gig going on here, so why add unnecessary drama with someone else?" Still, it is

noteworthy that it is God, not Adam, who declared a helper is needed. It is God who declares that it is not good to be alone.

We have multiple ministries at work at various times here at Hoffman. Sometimes I'll try to compliment the coordinator, but often what I hear back is "I have a great team of workers/helpers who make it possible." There is a maturity in such a response, to understand that while things can be done by one person working hard, a team of people can accomplish so much more.

As 2022 is ending, I'm finding myself particularly reflective, as over the last couple years there have been a wide variety of transition with multiple persons stepping into different roles in the church. Thank You. There have also been those who have learned new skills and filled in doing entirely new things. Thank

You. In addition, if I'm honest with you, there have been multiple times over the last couple years when I have felt a different kind of exhaustion; different from simply a physical tiredness, and I have wondered how to continue. In those moments a little hope goes a long way. It is remarkable how often that hope came in the form of a shared article, or forwarded joke, or a simple text



or note of encouragement, or volunteering to do something brand new. While not as physically dramatic as arms being held up, each moment was a reminder that I am not alone in this, and we all together help bear one another's burdens. (Galatians 6:2).

For all the ways that you have helped with the burdens of the faith family here at Hoffman, of neighbors, and even of mine and my family's..., Thank You. I pray God continues to bless this congregation's work through your words and deeds as we enter this new year.

Ephesians 3:20-21 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

In His Service and yours,



Board Meeting Highlights

Devotions

Devotions were offered by Julia Circle. She shared from “The Problem of Pain” authored by CS Lewis. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Julia.

Meeting Attendees

Les Trittschuh, Julia Circle, Jill Circle, John Ankerman, Kim Dohrman, Patti Wion, Janet Benkert, Chris Long, Pastor Robbie Scott

Pastor’s Report

The average attendance during October: 129 (+3 vs Sept). Three from our board attended the Miami County Regional Charge Conference on 11/10/22. Five congregations were represented with roughly 10 persons present. Pastor Robbie participated in the special clergy session and the special called Annual Conferences to honor wishes of disaffiliating congregations. Meetings on the disaffiliation facts/opinions were well attended with good interaction. Regarding the response to the meeting, the appearances are that the congregation's desire is to stay together and be unified in whatever direction Hoffman goes. The board will ask Joseph Knostman to craft a congregation survey to guide our next steps. It will be available for review at the next board meeting. The board member may offer questions to Pastor Robbie via email to add to the survey.

Finance

The finance report for October was reviewed and accepted. John also created a reference for the congregation regarding charitable donations. September-Weeks of Operation 10.19 weeks.

Trustees

Trustees report was given. Financial report was reviewed. Work continues on the North Tower to complete its renovation. Ceiling has been raised and plastered, a plaster skim on the walls with repainting is complete. Next is stripping of window frames and applying stain. Goal is for this work to be completed by Christmas Eve.

Nominations

Robbie has approached someone for replacement of the board secretary position. The person is prayerfully considering the position..

Staff Parish Relations

Plans for presenting staff Christmas gifts at the Christmas party were made.

Non-agenda items

Dec 24 Christmas Eve Services 7 & 10 p.m.
Christmas One Worship Service 10:30 a.m..
Jan 1 Normal Worship Times

Serving Schedule

Jan 1

9:00 Liturgist: Les T. **Greeters:** Wendy H. and Nancy L.
Ushers: Wayne & Susie S. and Phil & Karen M. **Hospitality Table:** Elaine P.

Nursery: 10:15 Patti W. & Kathy K. / **11:15** Julia C. & Wendy H.

11:15 Greeters: Ben G., Julia C., & Kathy K. **Scripture Reader:** Norman H.

Jan 8

9:00 Liturgist: Wendy H. **Greeters:** Elaine P. and Joy P.
Ushers **Hospitality Table:** Honor Table

Nursery: 10:15 Lesli R. / **11:15** Lesli R. & Lauren E.

11:15 Greeters: Dick & Mary Ann M. **Scripture Reader:** Julia C.

Jan 15

9:00 Liturgist: Les T. **Greeters:** Elaine I. and Cathy B.
Ushers **Hospitality Table:** Jim & Marilyn M.

Nursery: 10:15 Julia C. & Kathy K. / **11:15** Ben G. & Mallory D.

11:15 Greeters: Kathy W. and Ruth L. **Scripture Reader:** Valerie M.

Jan 22

9:00 Liturgist: Wendy H. **Greeters:** Carol S. and Peggy N.
Ushers **Hospitality Table:** Wendy H.

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.

Jan 29

9:00 Liturgist: Les T. **Greeters:** Sophia & Stella B.
Ushers: Steve K. & Kay W. **Hospitality Table:** Richard & Marcia S.

Nursery: 10:15 Kathy K. / **11:15** Ben G. & Lauren E.

11:15 Greeters: Patti W. & Courtney S. **Scripture Reader:** Ben G.



Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary January 2023

2nd Andrew Circle
5th Bob & Nancy Mills (55 yrs)
6th Jim Watkins
9th Debby Guthrie
Peggy Nihizer
12th Elaine Iddings
13th David Mitchell
Kay Wagner
14th William Brock
Nancy Curry
Patti Wion
Greg & Myra Lingle (34 yrs)
15th Tom & Nancy Wolf (58 yrs)
18th Ben Garrett

19th Greg Raines
21st Paul Miller, Sr.
Bob Mills
22nd Courtney Sims
23rd John Carter
Theda Sliver
Audrey Scammahorn
Bridget Scott
24th Cheyenne Barnes
27th Emma Knostman
29th Denise Sanderson
31st Lauren Everage



Weekly Giving and Attendance Statistics

Date	11-20-22	11-27-22	12-4-22	12-11-22	12-18-22
General Offering	5565.00	2176.00	5411.19	4489.00	5545.00
Weekly Budget Need	4793.00	4793.00	4793.00	4793.00	4793.00
Mission Offering	228.00	265.00	220.00	260.00	235.00
Maintenance Fund	195.00	450.00	415.00	190.00	95.88
Building Fund & Memorials	148.00	20.00	265.00	110.00	458.00
Stained Glass Windows	0	0	415.00	20.00	30.00
Online & Physical Attendance					
9 a.m. Service at church	45	52	46	53	56
* Remote viewing	19	19	21	16	6
11:15 a.m. Service at church	58	53	62	53	48
* Remote viewing	9	15	2	2	5
Total Attendance	131	139	131	124	115

Stained Glass Window Restoration Project Amount Received: \$ 95,705

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



Grandma's Kitchen, 2022

Thanks to all the volunteers—and diners!—who helped Grandma's Kitchen have another successful year. We were 'open' 14 weeks and served 2941 meals; of those meals, 895 were given to families in need. Even with prices going up on just about everything we use, we still managed to support Grandma's Kitchen financially without raising the cost of our meals. This was possible due to the number of diners who have returned since our very limited meal schedules in 2020 and 2021 and to a number of donations. We were able to make a donation of our own as we contributed \$500 to help those affected by the floods in Eastern Kentucky.

We had 54 volunteers who gave almost 1000 hours of service to Grandma's Kitchen including such chores as peeling potatoes (80# at a time), wrapping silverware, delivering meals, bussing tables, dishing up ice cream, cutting pies, making/packing salads, shopping for food, washing dishes, serving beverages, bagging up carry-out meals, doing laundry, packing leftovers and taking them to the Family Abuse Center, dealing with repairmen (unfortunately), planning menus, helping seat diners, keeping track of the finances, sharing a joke and a prayer, serving at the steam table, cooking noodles, browning meat, mashing potatoes, opening cans (actually, that can be a time-consuming job!), moving hot, heavy pans into and out of the ovens, baking brownies/cakes, subbing for whoever whenever, etc. And this doesn't include any of the 'unofficial' jobs, such as visiting with our guests, which makes Grandma's Kitchen such a good place to be on a Wednesday evening. Our volunteers are the key to making this whole program work.

If you haven't already done so, you may want to take a moment to read the engraved plaque on the south stained glass window in the South Towers Room. That window is dedicated by Grandma's Kitchen "in memory and honor of our founders, volunteers and patrons" which represents over 20 years of service to our church and community. Thank you to all who have helped in any way with Grandma's Kitchen, 2022, and to those from years past who had the vision, desire and dedication to support and maintain this program.



People to remember in prayer:



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

2023 offering envelopes are at the back of the sanctuary if you haven't picked yours up yet. Remember not to use these envelopes until 2023. If you do not have offering envelopes and would like some, please contact Joy P. (937) 698-4339.

NEW 'Piece Makers Craft Club' to make prayer squares starting January 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month in Room 7, by the kitchen. All are welcome! Contact: Elaine P. (937)698-5192

Winter Walking Group join us on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 10 to 11a.m. in the activity center. Contact Elaine P. at (937)698-5192

Thanks to our dedicated Trustees for all the work they do around the church. Phil McFadden, Wayne Spittler, David Jay, Tom Kinsey, Wendy Heisey, Andrew Circle, and special 'honorary trustee' Susie Spittler; we appreciate you!

Thanks to Joy Paulus for tracking offering and Dawn Jay for counting and depositing the offering. Your dedication is appreciated.

Hoffman church family, you never cease to amaze and bless me with your love and generosity; thank you for the Christmas bonus, gifts, and cards. May your 2023 be full of blessings!
JoAnn Antonides

THANK YOU CRAFT SHOW VOLUNTEERS

We want to thank ALL the volunteers that helped with the Craft Show this year. God has given so many of you special gifts and talents and we so appreciate you! A special thank you to: Tina Mathews, Kay Wagner, Karen McFadden, and Susie Spittler.

Congratulations a Baby Girl!

Josie Lynn Knostman arrived on November 23, 2022 weighing 5 lbs. 15 ozs. Congrats to parents: Joseph & Jennifer and big sisters: Rose, Anna, Emma, Ellie, & Gr



Thanks to everyone who participated in filling a shoebox or praying over the boxes. We delivered 54 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes this year!

Thank you to Christy Harris for her time in preparing the multi-media display for our services. We appreciate your devotion to this weekly project.

Thanks to Ben Garrett for changing the message on the church sign. We appreciate you!

Thanks to Erin Studebaker for entering attendance each week. Your willingness to faithfully do this task each week is greatly appreciated.

Special thanks to our online worship producers:
Darin Wion, Greg Lingle, and Mike Barnes.
We appreciate all you do.

Two Women's Bible Studies Planned

The Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study will begin again on January 11, 10-11:30 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room with the first of two planned Bible studies. The first study is a Lenten study, ***Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects*** by Jill J. Duffield, which is a daily devotional with questions and reflections for each day. Ash Wednesday is February 23 this year which means we will be finishing our study as Lent, 2023 begins. The hope is that this daily study will be a good way to start the year and to help us be better prepared when the Lenten season begins. All women are welcome to join the class; you need not be a member of Hoffman nor attend church here.

God works through ordinary people, everyday objects, things we bump up against moment by moment. The question is . . . do we have the eyes to see God's near presence and the ears to hear the word of the Lord spoken? Can everyday objects remind us to stay awake and pay attention? In this devotion Jill J. Duffield draws readers' attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem: dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones. In each object, readers will find meaning in the biblical account of Jesus' final days. Each week, readers encounter a new object to consider through Scripture, prayer, and reflection." (Amazon.com)

The second Bible study, ***God Works All Things Together for Your Good: Living in the Promise of Romans 8:28*** by Robert J. Morgan, is scheduled to begin March 1. Robert J. Morgan has become a favorite author for many at Hoffman after studying his book, *The Strength You Need* for the Women's Bible study and *The Red Sea Rules* for an adult Sunday School class in 2021.

From rjmorgan.com: "This book reveals the remarkable power of a single Bible verse—Romans 8:28 ("We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God") that will give readers an unshakable basis for confidence and joy. Filled with real-life illustrations of triumph over tragedy, *God Works All Things Together for Your Good* not only empowers us to deal effectively with everyday stress and strain, but offers solid assurance to anyone facing serious trouble. In his personable style, Morgan shares strong techniques for . . . finding purpose in painful situations, and turning discouragement into resilience."

Books for each study are \$5. To order a book or for more information, please contact Marilyn Mitchell, 937-947-1831.

Note: Both books are available through the M-U Public Library and the 2nd also as an audiobook through the Ohio Digital Library. You will need to use the former title of the Morgan book, *The Promise*, to find his book in both of those places.



“For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of the Light.” Psalm 27:1

Family Fun Night coming up!!
February 18, 2023
5:30-8:00PM

Board Game night and Nerf Gun War
Taco Bar and Ice Cream Bar

Preschool Children's Church will be back to just preschool kids this month!!

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



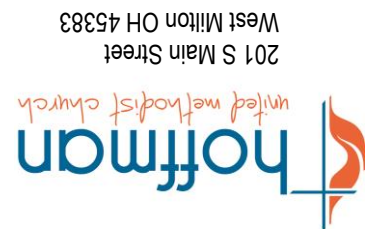
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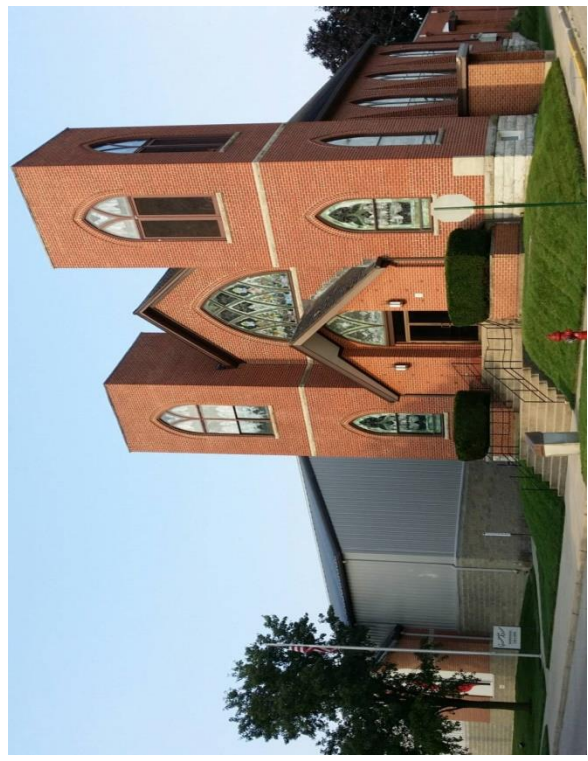


January
 2023

T O W E R S
T H E R E

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