

HOPEWELL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

'A Place to Find Hope and Be Well'

20220 Hopewell Road

Mount Vernon, OH 43050

*Our mission is to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ
and minister to the needs of others in His name.*

April - May 2018

Pastor's Ponderings -- Pastor Lee Cubie

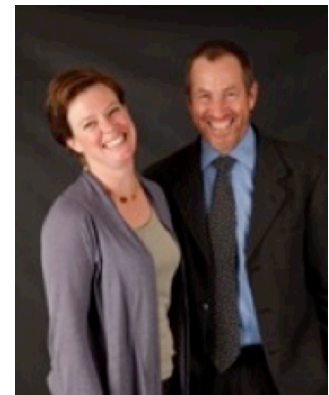
Easter

I remember Easter mornings growing up. The ones that were most special were when I was very young, four and five years old. By the time I had reached the ripe old age of six the magic had left, and I was in it just for the candy. But the first Easters held wonderment.

The first Easters held wonderment for several reasons. One reason for the wonderment was the newness, I had never experienced anything like this before. Another reason, was the presence of my mother. She would wake me up with a smile upon her face. And finally, there was a sense of loving warmth. So, if you would indulge me in some nostalgia, I would like to reminisce.

We lived in Malden, Massachusetts. My father pastored a Congregational church while going to Harvard. My mother took in typing. We lived in a brown wood shingled house on a corner lot. The lot was dug into a hillside with granite retaining walls on one side yard and along the back of the lot. There was a garage to the back of the lot, and leaves would gather there between the garage and the retaining wall. That is where I first found salamanders and night crawlers. In the sidewalk, leading from the garage to the house was a garbage pail, set into the ground, with a pedal that would raise the lid. There the ants would gather, marching back and forth with their treasured food. Along the foundation of the house I would dig holes trying to get to China, convinced I was close whenever I came across soil that was a different color. When it rained large puddles would form, and on occasion I would go fishing but never caught anything. It was from this house that I left home to go to kindergarten and first grade. This was my world, safe and secure.

It was in this house that Easter would come. It would come in my bedroom, with yellow walls and gauzed curtains. It would come with the sunshine that brightened the room. It would come when my mother, all dressed for church, would wake my sister and me. She would gently call our names and caress our heads. And she would tell us that she thought the Easter Bunny had come while we were asleep. Sure enough, when I sat up in bed I spied a basket at the foot of my bed. It had a bed of green grass. On that bed of grass were colorful eggs and a chocolate Easter Bunny. Such a wonder that I should be blessed with all that candy. Easter had come, and I was safe and warm. Easter had come, and I felt the love of my mother.



Many a year has passed since I lived in Malden, Massachusetts. I no longer try to dig to China or fish in puddles. I have found more salamanders than I can count. My garbage goes out to the compost heap or down the disposal. And my mother now rests in the arms of Jesus along with my father. And now Easter comes without colored eggs and chocolate Easter Bunnies. But wonderment can still come, for Easter comes with a promise of resurrection.

Easter morning is coming. The resurrection is coming. One day God will call our names, just as he did Jesus' on that Easter morn two thousand years ago. And we will all leave the grave just like Jesus did. And instead of candy, we will receive eternal life. Amen.

God and His Angels – by Elaine Farie

Anyone who doubts there are angels on earth, should come – let me show them.

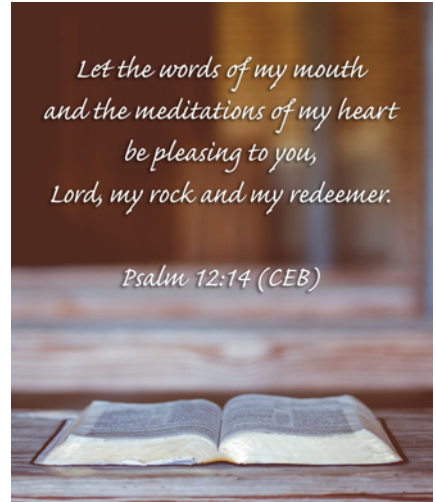
Since September 17, 2017, when Ron and I have been on our current journey, there have been countless times we have experienced someone “caring, sharing, and loving” whom we had never met before.

Of course we know some “local angels” – whom you all know very well – THANK YOU – you know who you are.

Ron and I are indebted to the Hopewell Congregation especially due to an “emergency” which by now is going to be another chapter in Elaine’s personal “Guidepost” story.

One day we will all share in an incredible reunion in our Heavenly Home.

Thank you, God, for your unending Mercy, Love and Compassion on each of us – during our time on this earth.



A Warm Welcome to our Newest Members

-- Marsha Clayborne

The Hopewell United Methodist Church would like to give a warm welcome to all of the newest members of the congregation to our country church. We hope that you find peace and hope during our worship service. We hope you like the country atmosphere, the old time hymns, and getting to know one another through the year.

United Methodist Women Report

- Marsha Clayborne,
Secretary

UMW will be having a meeting in April. Watch the announcements for details.



Hopewell's Foundation Families – The Gorsuch Family – by Marsha Clayborne

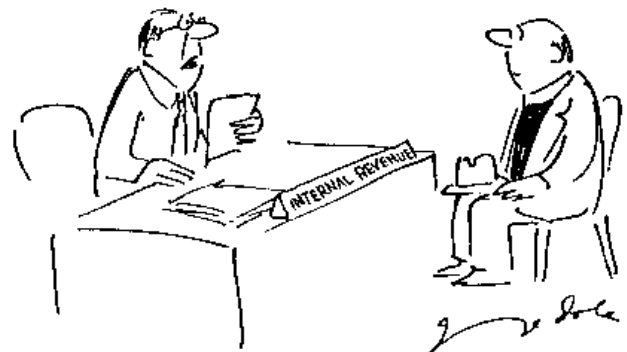
[This article is another product of Marsha's research about families who are memorialized in the beautiful stained glass windows at Hopewell Church.]

The Gorsuch family lived in the Knox County area for many years. Joseph Gorsuch was born in 1850 and made his home in Pleasant Township. He married Caroline Lahmon in October of 1871. They had four children, Orrville, Clarence, Melvin, and Sophia. The Gorsuch family was long time farmers and members of Hopewell Church and Pleasant Grange. Melvin Gorsuch married Maude Warman, and they had four children: Ralph, Alice, Ray, and Ada. Alice Gorsuch was born March 1, 1904, and married Silas Elliott on November 21, 1945. They had one son, Cecil Elliott.



An article in the *Mount Vernon News* on April 6, 1985, published some interesting church history about Alice Gorsuch Elliott in her later years. Alice said that she played piano at the Hopewell United Methodist Church for more than 60 years and played the organ when she was only 13 years old. When Alice began playing the organ at Hopewell, the Rev. M.A. Burris was the pastor from 1915-1917. Church hymns were her favorite kind of music. She was a member of the Ladies Aid (UMW today) and taught adult Sunday school at Hopewell. She was baptized when she was 7 years old. She was active in the ice cream socials and a member of the Pleasant Grange. She was church secretary for many years, a faithful member, and served on the Pastor-Parish Committee of the church. Alice died on April 22, 1987, at the age of 83. She is buried at the Union Grove Cemetery next to the Grove Church.

Many Gorsuch family members are buried there, and others rest in Hopewell Cemetery.



"What's this we hear about your laying up treasures in heaven?"

Hopewell Church Council Meeting Summary –submitted by Bob Joseph

Council Chair Bill Lawhon called the meeting to order after the worship service on March 25. Bob Joseph offered a prayer.

Finance: Barb Butler (Finance Chair) noted the finance committee met recently to discuss finances from last year and this year to-date. The report she shared with the council indicates a healthy financial position.

CES Credit Union has moved its annual meeting from April to September. HUMC has been asked to serve the food again, and Donna Spinks will assist Barb in coordinating the effort.

Pastor-Parish Relations: Elaine Farie (PPR Chair) and committee are working on a HUMC report (Pastor Assessment and Action Plan), to be coordinated with South Vernon UMC and sent to District Superintendent Dr. Call.

Trustees: Mickey Gourley (Trustees chair) reported the following progress and plans:

The electrical upgrade is completed for one-half of the church, including new wiring/outlets in the Sunday school area.

Lighting upgrade - Trustees will bring sample lights for the sanctuary and will replace the exterior front light.

April 28 (9 AM) was chosen for a church cleanup day. Projects, in addition to the usual tasks, will include replacing downspouts, basement cleaning and dry-out, kitchen cabinet installation along the north wall, and working on tilting headstones in the cemetery.

Vision: Bob Joseph will convene the Vision team (which includes all who wish to participate), on a date in May. Topics include:

Meeting the needs of our youth

Drafting a program of activities/events for the remainder of 2018 and 2019.

Instant suggestions included music from the Wolfes and Scioto Ridge Boys, a barbecue cook-off at the church picnic, and recording worship services for those unable to attend.

Did You Know (about HUMC Finances)...

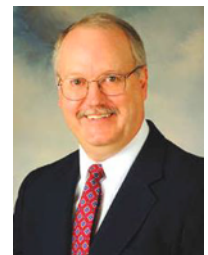
In 2017, coin jar contributions amounted to \$574.90! And the Kroger Community Rewards program added another \$284.01 to the HUMC Helping Hands Fund which assists people in need in our community.

Since opening the Helping Hands Fund in August 2013, \$2,116 has been collected in the coin jar and \$1,795 from Kroger. In all, \$1,880 has been disbursed to those in need.

District Superintendent's Comments – by Rev. Dr. Brad Call

John Ortberg, in his book, God Is Closer Than You Think, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2005) says that sometimes people pray a version of the Star Trek prayer to Scottie: "Beam me up!" It's as though our faith journey is all about getting ready for "up there" and being prepared for the "end times." But I find that the Bible more often talks about bringing heaven down here, now.

For a long time now one of my favorite scripture passages has been Micah 6:8—*"What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God?"* I recognize that my position doesn't have a lock on the truth. But it's the way I feel called to live out my spirituality. I want to be ready for eternity (whatever that may look like) and I want to help others be ready, but I also want my life to make a difference now... in **this** time! In fact, I understand that to be the heart of the Lord's Prayer: *"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."* If we could endeavor to live by the principles of the kingdom of heaven in our relationships with one another **here and now**, it seems to me that would go a long way in us reflecting the love of Jesus **and** being ready for the life to come.





(left) On Palm Sunday, Pastor Lee showed the HUMC youth how to make a cross from palm leaves.



(right) The youth (Jack, Sam, and Joe Laymon shown here) distributed palm fronds to the adults.

(right and far right) On Maundy Thursday, 18 parishoners of Hopewell and South Vernon UMCs learned of Passover traditions of the seder and shared a modified seder meal.



HUMC Humor – Contributor wishes to remain anonymous

It was the couple's first wedding anniversary, and to insure the success of the dinner party the husband had made all the arrangements by telephone the previous week for dessert: He ordered a frosted white layer cake inscribed with "I love you" and a great big 1. When the cake was finally put before them it was husband's unpleasant task to explain to his wife, who was sensitive about her weight, why the inscription read "I love you great big one."

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Doctor: Could you pay for an operation if I thought one was necessary?

Patient: Would you think one was necessary if I couldn't pay for it?

Pastor-Parish Relations – Elaine Farie, PPR Chairman

Our PPR committee is again completing the annual Pastor Assessment and Action Plan for 2018. We will be meeting with the PPR group of South Vernon UMC soon, and together, prayerfully consider our evaluation of Pastor Lee and the goals of our congregation. This is then to be submitted to the District superintendent by May 1.

We continue to feel blessed to have Pastor Lee as the Shepard of our Flock.

Birthdays

April

2 Adam Lawhon

May

7 Bitsi Gourley

7 Josh Laymon

12 Phyllis Gourley

12 Emma Laymon

12 Mindy Ingalls

19 John Wolfe

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Why Easter lands on a different date every year

— and how you can work out when it will be - by Lindsay Dodgson, Reporter, Business Insider UK

Do you ever feel like Easter comes out of nowhere?

Maybe you didn't realize, but the Easter weekend actually falls on a different date every year, any time between March 22 and April 25. This year Easter Sunday is April 1.

As a Christian holiday, you might expect it to have a set date like Christmas. However, Easter is actually determined by the Jewish calendar. This is because in the Bible, the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ happened after the Jewish festival of Passover, and followers wanted it to be celebrated as such.

However, this is slightly tricky because the Jewish calendar is based on lunar cycles, whereas Christian culture is based on the sun. A solar year is just over 365 days and a lunar year is about 354 days, so collaborating the two can be complicated.

Passover also changes every year, because it's calculated by the first full moon following something called the vernal equinox — a day in spring when night and day are exactly the same length.

An article on ThoughtCo says that in the early days of the Christian Church, Easter would fall on the first Sunday immediately after the vernal equinox. However, to establish a more standardized system, in 1583 a table was recorded by astronomers to determine all the future Ecclesiastical full moons. These land on the 14th day of the lunar month.

Ever since 1583, the Passover full moon — or Paschal full moon— has been determined from these historical tables, and is the first full moon date after March 20. Easter is always celebrated on the Sunday immediately following it, so as a result, it no longer directly corresponds to the moon.

The Paschal full moon can vary as much as two days from the date of the actual full moon. This is why the dates can range from March 21 to April 18, and Easter falls between March 22 to April 25 in Western Christianity.

This year, March has two full moons. One was on March 1, and the second will be on March 31. The first Sunday after the second moon is the next day, April 1, which is thus Easter Sunday this year.

There is a mathematical method for working out the date of Easter, too — between the years 1900 to 2199. Here it is:

1. First, divide the year by the number 19, e.g.: $2018 / 19 = 106.21$

2. Multiply the number before the decimal point by 19, e.g.: $106 \times 19 = 2014$

3. Subtract step 2 from the original year, e.g.: $2018 - 2014 = 4$

4. Add 1, e.g.: $4 + 1 = 5$

5. Look up this number in the following list (5), and Easter is on the first Sunday after the date given.

0 — March 27

1 — April 14

2 — April 3

3 — March 23

4 — April 11

5 — March 31

6 — April 18

7 — April 8

8 — March 28

9 — April 16

10 — April 5

11 — March 25

12 — April 13

13 — April 2

14 — March 22

Number 5 corresponds to March 31, and the first Sunday after this date is April 1...Easter Sunday.

April 2018						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Easter Sunday 7:00 Sunrise Service 7:45 Breakfast 8:30 Worship/Communion	2 National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day B'day: Adam Lawhon	3 Don't Go to Work unless It's Fun Day	4 School Librarian Day	5 Go for Broke Day	6 National Walk to Work Day Plan Your Epitaph Day	7 No Housework Day World Health Day
8 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/ Refreshments	9	10 National Siblings Day	11 Barbershop Quartet Day	12 National Licorice Day	13 Friday the 13 th Blame Someone Else Day	14 Passover Ends National Pecan Day
15 World Art Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	16 Mushroom Day	17 Tax Day	18 International Jugglers Day	19 National Garlic Day	20 Volunteer Recognition Day	21 Husband Appreciation Day
22 Earth Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	23 National Zucchini Bread Day	24 Pig in a Blanket Day	25 Administrative Professionals Day	26 Take Our Sons and Daughters to Work Day	27 Arbor Day	28 International Astronomy Day Church Cleanup Day, 9 AM
29 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	30 Hairstyle Appreciation Day					
Notes:						

September 2017

November 2017

May 2018							June 2018
April 2018	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 May Day Mother Goose Day	2 Baby Day	3 National Day of Prayer	4 International Tuba Day Star Wars Day	5 Cinco de Mayo
6 National Nurses Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Holy Communion	7 National Tourism Day B'day: Bitsi Gourley B'day: Josh Laymon	8 National Teachers Day V-E Day	9 Lost Sock Memorial Day	10 Ascension Day	11 Eat What You Want Day	12 Limerick Day International Nurses Day B'day: Phyllis Gourley B'day: Emma Laymon B'day: Mindy Ingalls	
13 Mothers Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/ Refreshments	14 Dance Like a Chicken Day	15 Peace Officers Memorial Day	16 Ramadan starts	17 Pack Rat Day	18 Visit Your Relatives Day	19 Armed Forces Day B'day: John Wolfe	
20 Pentecost 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	21 National Waiters and Waitresses Day	22 National Maritime Day	23 Lucky Penny Day	24 National Escargot Day	25 Don't Fry Friday Tap Dance Day	26 International Jazz Day	
27 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	28 Memorial Day	29 Learn about Composting Day	30 Water a Flower Day	31 Save Your Hearing Day	Notes:		

Technically, Moses



was the first person with a tablet downloading data from the cloud

IF ANYONE EVER ASKS YOU "WHAT WOULD JESUS DO"?



REMINDE THEM THAT FLIPPING OVER TABLES & CHASING PEOPLE WITH A WHIP IS WITHIN THE REALM OF POSSIBILITIES

