

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.*

December 2018 - January 2019

Pastor's Ponderings -- Pastor Lee Cubie

Giving Thanks

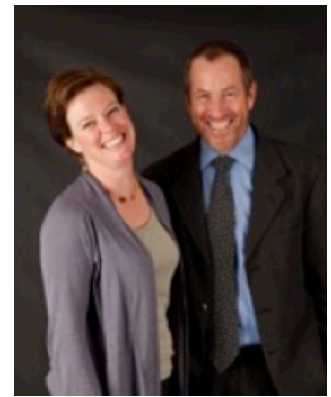
We are entering the holiday season. By the time you receive your newsletter we will have celebrated Thanksgiving. Football and over-eating will be the rule. Black Friday deals will have tempted us to spend our hard-earned money. Christmas and all the holiday tidings will be roaring in followed by New Year's Eve. My head hurts just thinking about it all.

We will also be entering the new year of the church. December 2nd marks the beginning of the new year for the Western church. In the coming of Advent, we begin anew the ages-long celebration of the providence of God. Providence is a theological term that is not used much anymore.

The word providence might need a word of explanation. It has been hotly debated for centuries. The ancient Greeks debated the idea. For them it could be universal reason that ordered the universe. Another theory was a universal unity or harmony that could be entered.

In the scriptures, providence is not an idea. It is an expression of faith in a living God. Their faith was rooted not in ideas but in observation of how God worked in their midst. The stories of Genesis and Exodus describe the creation of the world and the creation of the world. Joshua and Judges describe how God led them into the promised land. The books of Samuel, Kings, and Chronicles describe how God worked in their midst as they developed from twelve tribes and into two kingdoms.

What the people of God learned was God's creation was not accidental. God's creation was moving towards a purpose. They also learned that God was steadfast and loving. They also learned that God was holy. This meant that he would hold them accountable for their actions. And so the Psalmists give expression to this over and over. Psalm 105 is a Psalm recounting all the great deeds God did in their midst. Psalm 105:7, which reads, "He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth," is an expression of the providence of God. Their faith led them to believe that God ordered the world to live in God's loving embrace. Paul gives expression of this providence in his letter to the Romans. In chapter one he writes how God's providence works universally -- for both good and bad in his expression, "Therefore God gave them up." What Paul is expressing here is God allowed evil into his creation because that is what people wanted. But this is not the final word. In Romans 8, Paul writes,



“I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons and daughters of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption as sons and daughters, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.” *Romans 8:18-21*

There is not time to dissect this completely today, but this is one of the most sublime understandings of the providence of God in all the scriptures. It is an expression of the complete scope of God’s transcendent providence as he heals and moves his creation forward out of our moral decay into the glorious freedom of his love.

The Christian calendar, beginning with Advent, is the church’s celebration of God’s providence. Advent announces God’s purpose, and the rest of the calendar celebrates how God brings his creation back to its intended purpose of loving praise of a loving creator. Therefore, we rejoice in the Lord as Paul writes,

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say Rejoice. Let all men know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” *Philippians 4:4-7*

Amen!



Pastor/Parish Relations Committee Report – Elaine Farie, Chair

Our annual Charge Conference was held November 7th at 7:00 p.m. at Utica United Methodist Church. You ask: “What does that mean?” – “The primary responsibilities of the charge conference is the annual meeting shall be to review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of the church, receive reports, and adopt objectives and goals recommended by the church council that are in keeping with the objectives of the United Methodist Church.”

Reverend Call, our District Superintendent, used the theme “Bearing Fruit that Lasts” throughout our meeting. Colossians 3: 1-17 were words he shared to emphasize the Life of a Christian. May we put these words into action in our daily walk.

Our PPR Committee is also formulating a Child Protection Policy – to be approved by the Church Council and the congregation in the near future.

May God continue to Bless Hopewell United Methodist church and all His Kingdom here on earth.

Passing the Cup - Marsha Clayborne



Rose Wolfe was the communion steward when I started attending Hopewell in 1987. One Sunday, after church I was helping to clear the Lord's Table with her and she asked me if I would like to take over her duty. She told me what I had to do, and I accepted her offer. Fast-forwarding to 30 years later, I have asked Bitsi Gourley if she would like to take over as communion steward. We talked about the duties, and she accepted my offer. One day in the future she will be passing the cup also to someone at Hopewell.

United Methodist Women Report - Marsha Clayborne, Secretary

The UMW meeting was held on October 16 at the home of Joan Coon and Eleanor Doup. Seven members were present, and Bev Lahmon was the host for October. Joan Coon gave the blessing for the meal. Barb Butler started the meeting and the secretary's report given along with dues and missions collected. Jean Riley thanked the UMW for the beautiful flowers and birthday cake she received for her 91st birthday.



The UMW have nine miracle cloths left if anyone would like to purchase for a Christmas gift or for themselves. They are like a chamois cloth. The price is \$6.00 each or 2 for \$10.00.

The **Hopewell Christmas Trim-a-Tree will be Sunday, December 9 at 5 PM** and silent auction at 6 PM. Everyone is to bring some kind of finger food to share and items for the silent auction. The UMW will provide Christmas treat bags for the children.

Bev started the program with readings from "Jesus Is Calling" and scripture readings from Psalm 34, Psalm 105, and II Corinthians 1. Games were played called "Yes I Can" and "Halloween Word Scrabble". Eleanor Doup and Marsha Clayborne won the prizes. The next meeting will be at the Alcove in December.



Were the Disciples leaders or followers...or both?

How are we to apply the attributes of leadership in our churches?

If we are to serve as leaders we must govern diligently. [Romans 12:6] By accepting a leadership position one must be a diligent, steady worker. Many times this becomes a painstaking commitment. An effective leader considers the outcome of decisions and how they affect all parties involved. The leader's work should be done in earnest and energetically for the cause. Our cause in the church is that of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Leadership must be laced in prayer. God has called many to be leaders. *"Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you."* [Hebrew 13:17]

If being in a leadership position has become burdensome, then the joy is lost and the mission is no longer effective. As you consider the leadership positions within your churches, prayerfully discern God's call upon your lives and how you can be a blessing to others.

-- Susan McCurdy, Three Rivers District Lay Leader



Nativity scenes: More than meets the eye – from a UMC.org Feature by Lilla Marigza

United Methodist Jeanne Honeycutt has spent time researching the meaning behind variations in crèche displays. She and volunteers from First United Methodist Church in Tullahoma, TN, maintain a permanent Nativity museum at their church, which showcases more than 400 crèches.

Halos - The halo, or nimbus, has been used for centuries to denote deity. When appearing in Christian art, a halo symbolizes the light of God and a soul infused with God's spirit. The halo also signifies God's "glory," from the Greek word *doxa*, meaning the shining brilliance of God.

Jesus' outstretched arms reflect the invitation to salvation through him.

Stable - Most scholars believe that the stable referred to in the Gospels was most likely a cave built into the rocks behind, or adjacent to, the inn, which illustrates the divine truth that the Son of God came down to the very heart of the earth to dwell among humanity.

Later, the cave would be revered as Christ's burial place, from which he would be resurrected.

Swaddling clothes, as described in the New Testament, foretell Jesus' burial shroud.

The Virgin Mary's gown - The Virgin Mary often wears a gown of red, signifying lifeblood. Her mantle of blue represents the sky and heaven, conveying that she is the link between the human and the divine.

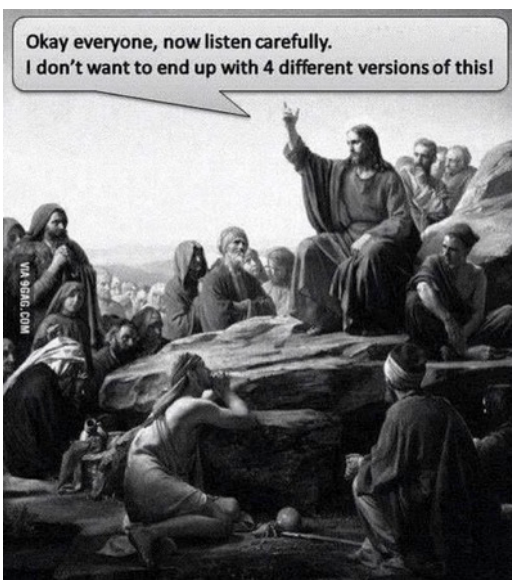
Hands over heart - At times, Mary is seen with hands clasped over her heart, alluding to St. Luke's account: "But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart." (Luke 2: 19)

Shepherds represent the common man. They also reference David, the shepherd who became king, and indicate Christ's ancestral lineage. Throughout the Old Testament, God is often referred to as a shepherd: "He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart." (Isaiah 40: 11)

The Magi, the three wise men, are often depicted as being three different ages — one young, one middle-aged, and one elderly — relating to the three stages of life.

Gifts of the Magi also take on significance. Gold indicates Christ's kingship, incense symbolizes his divinity, and myrrh foreshadows his death.

Nationalities of the Magi - The Magi are often portrayed as coming from three geographical and cultural areas — Asia, Africa and Europe — referring to the three known continents at the time.



God's gift – not life, alone, but life abundant.
 (It quickly passes through time's sieve.)
 Long? Short? – His call.
 Ours is to LIVE each day we live.

Mary

Beginning about 1964, Bob Joseph's Aunt Mary Cryder (1926-2009) created an original Christmas poem each year. The above poem is from 2006; below, from 1987.

"Let us go now to Bethlehem,"
 They said, that holy night.
 Unlearned, those hillside shepherds?
 No, wisdom at its height.

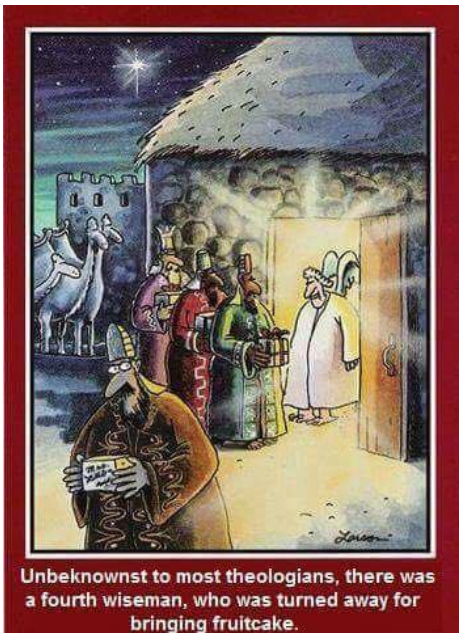
Hopewell Family Photo Album



Family outing...(from left: Ellen Kaiser, Marissa Yashnyk, Jean Riley, and Alexandra Young.)



Hopewell youth enjoyed bobbing for doughnuts at a Halloween-theme party.



Unbeknownst to most theologians, there was a fourth wiseman, who was turned away for bringing fruitcake.



Birthdays

December	
3	Jessie Gourley
7	Joan Coon
7	Joe Beran
7	Donna Spinks
17	Jack Laymon
	January
	4 DJ Johnson
	18 Joe Laymon

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www.facebook.com/HopewellUMCMtVernon

Charge Conference Summary – *Bob Joseph, recording secretary*
Representatives from eight area churches in Three Rivers District, including nine members from Hopewell UMC, met at Utica UMC on November 7 for the annual charge conference.

Rev. Dr. Brad Call, District Superintendent, opened the meeting with devotions on the topic of ‘Bearing Fruit That Lasts’ (*John 15:1-17*). When the Gospel takes root, the Christian bears fruit. Jesus calls us to bear fruit, to make this world a better place for everyone.

Dr. Call reminded the conference of the East Ohio Conference’s mission: To make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ.

- Being and making disciples.
- Being God’s agents of transformation in our communities and throughout the world.
- Being bold and courageous leaders in reaching newer, younger, and more diverse peoples.

A representative from each church spoke about how their church is living out the “being, making, and maturing” mission. In his turn, Lee Cubie spoke of the loving, welcoming, small-but-growing congregation at Hopewell; the nine soon-to-be members; the 12 active youth; and the many wonderful people on the leadership team.

Dr. Call shared some ideas from “The New Adapters – Shaping ideas to fit your congregation”:

- Keep the Web site updated
- Speak (during announcements, prayer requests, sermons) to the least-informed person in the congregation to avoid appearing to be a ‘closed society.’

He shared his experience of visiting a church (outside the Three Rivers district) where he and his wife were essentially ignored.

Review of Omnibus Charge/Church Conference Report for 2018:

Church leaders prepare a form annually that includes key actions, plans, and statistics about the congregation. The HUMC conference report was approved as published. The full report is available from Barb Butler. Highlights include:

- HUMC members in 2017 = 51; 2018 = 50.
- Average worship attendance in 2017 = 27; 2018 = 33.
- Pastor’s salary was approved at \$12,625.
- The HUMC building is appraised (2015) at \$74,000 and insured for \$447,000 (building) and \$57,000 (contents) with Mennonite Mutual.
- Balances were reported for the General Fund (\$72,813) and Building/Capital (\$39,647).
- Nominations for the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development are Phyllis Gourley and Marsha Clayborne.
- 2019 Budget: Approved as proposed.
- Church Positions or Committees approved for the coming year:

Lay Leader	Ellen Kaiser
Local Lay Member to Annual Conference	Bill Lawhon
Church Council Chair	Bill Lawhon
Pastor/Parish Relations Committee Chair	Elaine Farie
Trustees Chair	Mickey Gourley
Finance Committee Chair	Barb Butler
Treasurer	Barb Butler



Pianist
 Newsletter Editor
 UMW President
 UMW Secretary/Treasurer

Cheryl McCracken
 Bob & Linda Joseph
 Barb Butler
 Marsha Clayborne

Other:

The bishop has recommended that each church engage in ‘outcome-based ministry planning,’ i.e., continually ask why we do each activity. The analysis of an activity (“We do (this event) so that...”) should explain how that activity leads to accomplishing the mission, which is “to make and mature disciples for Jesus Christ.”

Dr. Call summarized the progress of the Bishops’ Commission on a Way Forward. Three courses have emerged that will come before the General Conference in February 2019:

- The **One Church Plan**, where all restrictive language about sexuality will be removed from The Discipline. Local churches and conferences will have flexibility in their own context while keeping the main connections.
- The **Connectional Plan**, a more complex way; five jurisdictional conferences are disbanded in favor of three theologically-different conferences: progressive, centrist, and traditionalist.
- The **Traditionalist Plan**, which retains the current language of The Discipline and proscribes actions for those who would step outside the rules.

For greater accuracy and completeness, please refer to **COMMISSION ON A WAY FORWARD’S REPORT to the GENERAL CONFERENCE** on line.

Nursing Outreach –*Elaine Farie, RN*

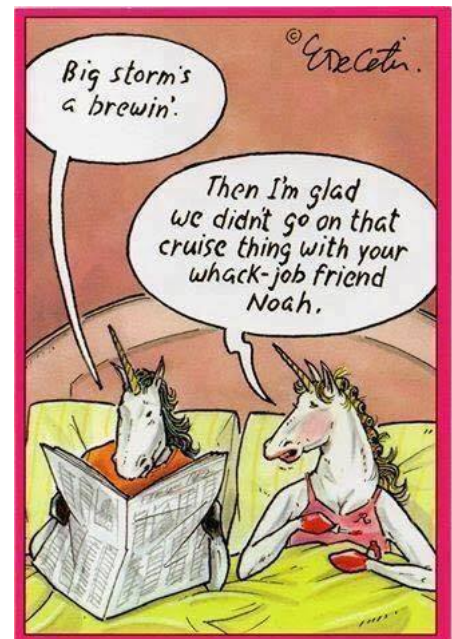
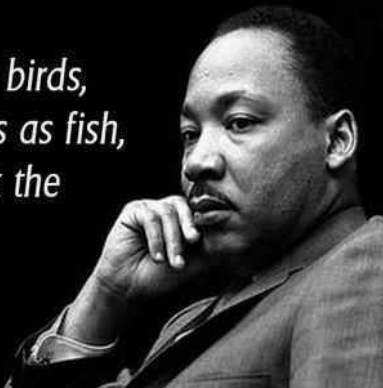
I am in the process of obtaining a schedule of the CPR-AED-First Aid classes for 2019, offered locally by the Red Cross. It will be posted on the bulletin board in the Sunday School area. More info soon -----

Life is so precious – never to be taken for granted.
 Have a Blessed Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

When we look at modern man, we have to face the fact that modern man suffers from a kind of poverty of the spirit, which stands in glaring contrast with a scientific and technological abundance.

We’ve learned to fly the air as birds, we’ve learned to swim the seas as fish, yet we haven’t learned to walk the Earth as brothers and sisters.

- Martin Luther King Jr



December 2018						
◀ November 2018						January 2019 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Eat a Red Apple Day
2 1 st Sunday of Advent 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Holy Communion	3 National Roof Over Your Head Day B'day: Jessie Gourley	4 Santa's List Day	5 Repeal Day (Prohibition ended this day in 1933)	6 Mitten Tree Day	7 Pearl Harbor Day (1941) B'day: Joan Coon B'day: Donna Spinks B'day: Joe Beran	8 National Brownie Day
9 2 nd Sunday of Advent 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Refreshments 11 Church Council 5 PM Hanging of the Greens/potluck/silent auction	10 Human Rights Day	11 National Noodle Ring Day	12 National Ding-a-Ling Day	13 Ice Cream Day	14 International Monkey Day	15 Bill of Rights Day
16 3 rd Sunday of Advent 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 7 PM Youth meeting	17 Wright Brothers Day B'day: Jack Laymon	18 Bake Cookies Day	19 Oatmeal Muffin Day	20 Go Caroling Day	21 Winter solstice	22 National Date Nut Bread Day
23 4 th Sunday of Advent 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	24 Christmas Eve National Egg Nog Day 7 PM Christmas Eve candlelight service	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day Kwanzaa	27 Make Cut Out Snowflakes Day	28 Card Playing Day	29 Pepper Pot Day
30 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	31 New Year's Eve	Notes:				

Top 10 Reasons to be a United Methodist:
#1 No Snake Handling

I always wanted to be a Gregorian monk,
but I never got the chants.

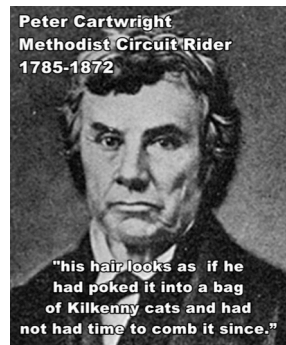
January 2019						
◀ Dec 2018						Feb 2019 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
National Blood Donor Month National Oatmeal Month National Bath Safety Month		1 New Year's Day	2 Run It up the flagpole and see if anyone salutes day	3 Fruitcake Toss Day	4 National Spaghetti Day B'day: D.J. Johnson	5 National Bird Day
6 Bean Day Feast of the Epiphany 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Holy Communion	7 Old Rock Day	8 Male Watcher's Day	9 National Take the Stairs Day	10 Houseplant Appreciation Day	11 Step in a Puddle and Splash a Friend's Day	12 National Pharmacists Day
13 International Skeptics Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Refreshments	14 Dress Up Your Pet Day	15 National Hat Day	16 National Nothing Day	17 Ditch New Year's Resolution Day	18 Winnie the Pooh Day B'day: Joe Laymon	19 National Popcorn Day
20 National Cheese Lovers Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	21 Martin Luther King	22 National Pie Day	23 Measure Your Feet Day	24 Compliment Day	25 Opposite Day	26 Australia Day Spouse's Day
27 Chocolate Cake Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	28 Bubble Wrapp Appreciation Day	29 National Puzzle Day	30 National Inane Answering Message Day	31 Inspire Your Heart with Art Day		

Our Methodist Heritage:

Peter Cartwright (1785-1872) , Circuit Rider

Peter Cartwright was known for his appearance and his direct manner. Cartwright spent nearly 50 years taking the gospel to "places where only crows and Methodist preachers" would venture. He beat Abraham Lincoln in an Illinois legislature election, but lost to him 10 years later in a bid for U.S. congress. He is credited with 8,000 baptisms and 10,000 church members. Hear this and more about his life at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=syjjwM1qVms>



Hopewell United Methodist Church

c/o Bob & Linda Joseph, newsletter editors
241 Valleybrook Circle
Howard, OH 43028



Calendar of Selected Events/Activities

Sunday, Dec 2	Communion Sunday; Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM; Bring food for Interchurch pantry
Sunday, Dec 9	Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM; Refreshments; Church Council, 11 AM Hanging of the Greens/potluck (finger foods)/silent auction, 5 PM
Sunday, Dec 16 & 23	Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM Youth meeting, 7 PM
Monday, Dec 24	Christmas Eve candlelight service, 7 PM
Sunday, Dec 30	Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM
Sunday, Jan 6	Communion Sunday; Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM; Bring food for Interchurch pantry
Sunday, Jan 13	Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM; Refreshments;
Sunday, Jan 20 & 27	Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM