

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.*

October - November 2019

Pastor's Ponderings – *Pastor Lee Cubie*

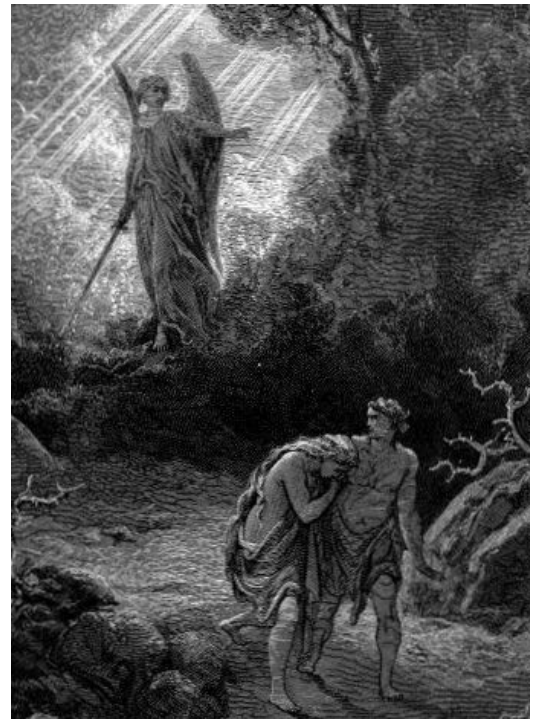
Advent

The Christian year is drawing to a close. I know that the new year begins December 1; however, by the time the next newsletter comes out, our expectations will be about Christmas and not Advent. Advent is comprised of the four weeks before Christmas. The word itself comes from two Latin words, *ad*, which means *to* and *venire* meaning *come*. Put together the words mean, *to come*. When we use it in the church, we use it to describe the coming birth of Jesus and his return at judgment day.

There is a certain irony in using the word 'advent' in describing the most intimate description of God's involvement with mankind. It is ironic because if God is always here, why does he need to come? And where is he coming from? We know that God is continually present because of the witness of the scriptures and the witness of the Holy Spirit in our own lives.

Colossians 1 describes Christ Jesus as the person of the Trinity through whom all creation was made and in whom all of creation continues. The force of this cannot be underestimated, for if Christ Jesus should withdraw his presence, all of creation would collapse. Therefore, the fact that I am sitting here typing this sentence on a beautiful sunny day, and that you are sitting there reading this sentence, hopefully on a beautiful sunny day, is according to scripture, God's continuing loving presence. So why does he need to come and where is he coming from?

The answer is in the scriptures, obviously. In the beginning God walked the earth. I know that is a really bizarre idea. But we read in Genesis 3 this description of God, "And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day...." Now I do not know what the sound was; perhaps it was the rustling of leaves as he passed by, perhaps he was whistling or talking to himself, or maybe songbirds followed him wherever he went. Whatever the sound was, it could be heard! When was the last time you heard God walking in the cool of the



morning? Tragically, this was the last time anybody heard him walking in the cool of the morning. The reason for this tragedy unfolds in the following verses. We read, "...and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?' And he said, 'I heard the sound of thee in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?'" What happens next is the unraveling of man.

Now what do I mean by the unraveling of man? To begin, we need to understand what Adam and Eve had and what they gave up. The description of creation by God himself was, "very good." That means it was perfect. It was perfect in unity, it was perfect in love, and it was perfect in life. Through the choice of Adam and Eve all of this was lost. We can see the loss of unity in the verses above when Adam hides himself from God. No longer is there a peaceful connection between God and man. The loss of love is seen in the following verses. "The man said, 'The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.'" Do you see the loss of love in Adam's response? He first blames Eve for his actions. Yes, ladies, no noble character was Adam; he threw Eve under the proverbial bus. Next he blames God when he says, "whom you gavest to be with me..." He tries to throw his loving creator under the same bus. How quickly he unravels. Eve is no better. When questioned by God she says, "The serpent beguiled me, and I ate." Eve throws the serpent under the bus, which is why we are running over serpents to this day.

To recap the events, mankind traded away unity, love and life for knowledge of good and evil. They found that knowledge when God, who is unity, love, and life, appeared in the cool of the morning. The consequences are devastating. As we read the following chapters, we read about reducing lifespans the further in time we move away from the fall. We read about murder. We read about how God hides himself ("He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.")

The story does not end there with a permanent departure from unity, love, and life. It does not end with eternal separation between God and man. It does not end with victory for the serpent to corrupt what God had made very good. In the midst of God spelling out the consequences of our actions in Adam, it is laid out in God's declaration to the serpent: "God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you above all cattle, and above all wild animals; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.'" This is seen as the first promise of redemption for mankind in the scriptures. It is seen as the promise of the advent of Jesus Christ. The bruising of the heel is seen as the crucifixion. The bruising of the head is seen as the breaking of the power of sin in our lives.

To answer the initial questions, why does he need to come, and where is he coming from? He needs to come because he hid himself in order to prolong our lives. He needs to come because we are a broken and dying race. He needs to come to slay the serpent that is the prince of this world. He needs to come because he will not remain hidden forever. He needs to come so that he might prepare us for his second coming. He needs to come because when he comes again all that is not love will pass away. For this reason, we have been offered forgiveness and restoration into the image we were created in, the image of Christ. As to where he comes from, he comes from the land of unity, life, peace, and most of all love.

I hope my ramblings have not muddied up the waters too much. But this is the reason for Advent and the reason for the season that will be shortly upon us.

School Supplies Report -- Lee Cubie

On September 6, I divided up the school supplies donated by Hopewell church members and was amazed at the generosity of all those who participated. Thank you very much. After looking at grade school free lunch programs, I brought the supplies to Dan Emmett Elementary School on Old Mansfield Rd. There were some supplies that were not suitable for elementary school students. Those supplies went to the Mount Vernon Middle School.

Here is the list of supplies delivered:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 17 backpacks | |
| 3 bottles of glue | 4 school supplies boxes |
| 20 glue sticks | 2 4-pack Clorox disinfecting wipes |
| 23 scissors | 2 3-pack Kleenex boxes |
| 130 pencils | 18 wide rule, single subject notebooks |
| 3 12-pack colored pencils | |
| 1 10-pack eraser cap | The following went to the middle school: |
| 3 pink pearl erasers | 100 ear buds |
| 48 24-pack crayons | 5 150-pages college rule filler paper |
| 1 8-pack crayons | 10 college rule single subject notebooks |
| 4 10-pack washable markers | 7 folders |
| 7 10-pack markers | |
| 41 12-pack markers | |
| 10 8-pack markers | |
| 1 10-pack dry erase markers | |
| 2 5-pack 5-color sharpies | |
| 2 black sharpies | |

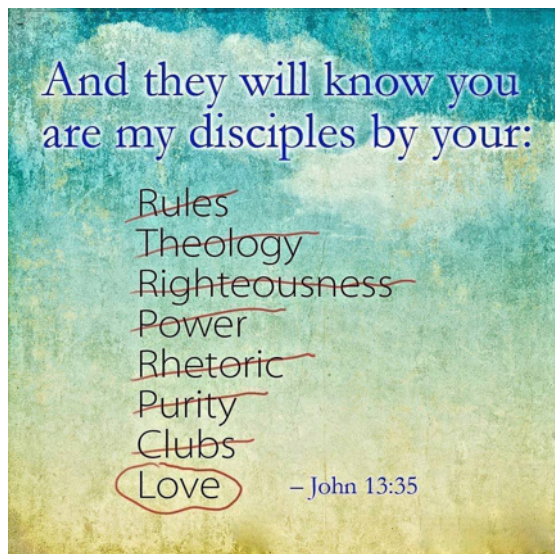
Why Do Brides Wear White?

Attending a wedding for the first time, a little girl whispered to her mother, "Why is the bride dressed in white?"

The mother replied, "Because this white is the color of happiness, and today is the happiest day of her life."

The child thought about this for a moment then said, "So why is the groom wearing black?"

--contributed by Marsha Clayborne



PPR – Elaine Farie, chairperson

The PPR Committee met on September 17 to discuss and complete our annual LCPA report (Local Church Profile Annual Information). It is being sent to our Local District Superintendent, Rev. Ed Fashbaugh, with whom we will meet with on October 8 at Mulberry UM Church.

Then on Sunday, October 20 at 4 PM, Hopewell meets with several other local Methodist Churches for the annual Three Rivers District Charge Conference. All members are invited to attend this session, which will be held at the Utica United Methodist Church.

We will keep our congregation aware of information related to these events. God bless you All.

Updating the Hopewell Family Directory

Contact information and photos are being collected for an updated church directory. Your photo can be taken on the following Sundays: October 13 and November 3... or you may submit a favorite photo or appropriate 'selfie' to Bob or Linda Joseph (rjoseph4@columbus.rr.com).

Hopewell Family Photos

Above – Rylanne (sophomore) and Jesse (junior) are doubles teammates on the Mt. Vernon tennis team. Photo by John Wolfe.

Below – Nine Hopewell members served the annual CES Credit Union dinner at the Memorial Theater on Monday, Sep 23. Many others also supported the effort with their pies and cakes.

**Hopewell Birthdays****October**

- 1 Broden Burt
- 5 Shirley Hughes
- 7 Jade Laymon
- 8 Ellie Purcell
- 15 Silas Burt
- 17 Pete Lawhon
- 18 Bev Lahmon
- 19 Erika Kanuckel-Wolfe
- 21 Aubrey Purcell Campbell
- 22 Elaine Farie

November

- 2 Sara Lawhon
- 10 Wendy Cedoz
- 13 Vitold Uscilowski
- 15 Sherry Dye
- 18 Amelia Wells
- 22 Gary Hughes
- 23 David Holl
- 24 Todd Wells
- 29 Bob Joseph

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www.mvhopewellumc.org

...on Facebook:

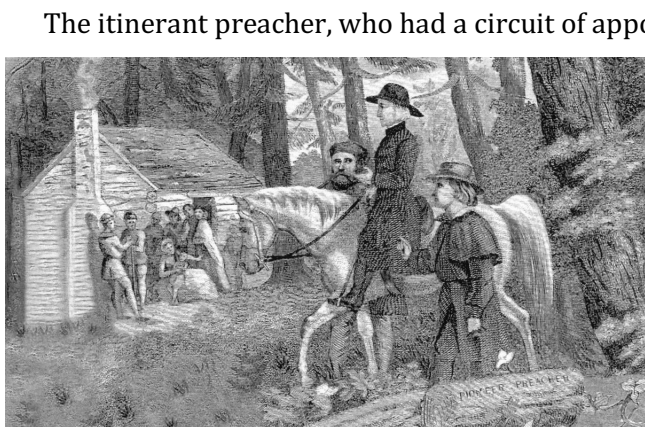
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This is the second in a 7-part series, "Learning about Our Methodist Roots," the forming and growing of the Methodist church, beginning 281 years ago. From *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church - 2016*. Copyright 2016 by The United Methodist Publishing House.

Revival and Growth (1817–1843)

The Second Great Awakening was the dominant religious development among Protestants in America during the first half of the nineteenth century. Through revivals and camp meetings, sinners experienced conversion. Circuit-riding preachers and lay pastors knit them into a connection. This style of Christian faith and discipline was very agreeable to Methodists, United Brethren, and Evangelicals who favored its emphasis on the experiential. The memberships of these churches increased dramatically, as did the number of preachers serving them.

Preachers and laity were expected to be seriously committed to both the faith and mission. Preachers were to possess a sound conversion and divine calling, as well as to demonstrate gifts and skills for fruitful ministry. The financial benefits were meager. The general membership's commitment was exhibited in their willingness to submit to the discipline of their churches. Methodists, for example, were strictly guided by the General Rules adopted at the Christmas Conference of 1784 and still included in United Methodism's *Book of Discipline*. They were urged to avoid evil, do good, and use the means of grace supplied by God. Those who did not adhere to the *Discipline* were to be removed from membership. The structure of Methodist, United Brethren, and Evangelical Association churches allowed them to function in ways to support, consolidate, and expand their ministries. Local classes could spring up wherever a few women and men were gathered under the direction of a class leader. [Ed. note: Available information suggests the Hopewell church was formed about 1832, with classes meeting in various homes.]



The itinerant preacher, who had a circuit of appointments under his care, visited regularly. This system served the diverse needs of city, town, or frontier outpost. The churches could go to the people wherever they settled. Annual conferences under episcopal leadership provided the mechanism for admitting and ordaining clergy, appointing itinerant preachers to their churches, and supplying them with mutual support. General Conferences, meeting quadrennially, proved sufficient to set the main course for the church, including the creation of the *Discipline* by which it was governed.

The Methodist Book Concern, organized in 1789, was the first church publishing house in America. The Evangelical Association and United Brethren also authorized the formation of publishing agencies in the early nineteenth century. From these presses came a succession of hymnals, *Disciplines*, newspapers, tracts, and magazines. Profits were usually designated for the support and welfare of retired and indigent preachers and their families.

The founding period was not without serious problems, especially for the Methodists. Conflict between Methodism's structure and values and American cultural norms (especially over episcopacy, race, and slavery) sometimes led to schism. In 1792, James O'Kelly founded the Republican Methodists to reduce the authority of bishops. Richard Allen (1760-1831), an emancipated slave and Methodist preacher who was mistreated because of his race, left the church and in 1816 organized The African Methodist Episcopal Church. For similar reasons, The African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church was begun in 1821. In 1830, about 5,000 preachers and laypeople left the denomination because it would not grant representation to the laity or permit the election of presiding elders (district superintendents). This new body was called The Methodist Protestant Church, which in 1939 united with The Methodist Episcopal Church and The Methodist

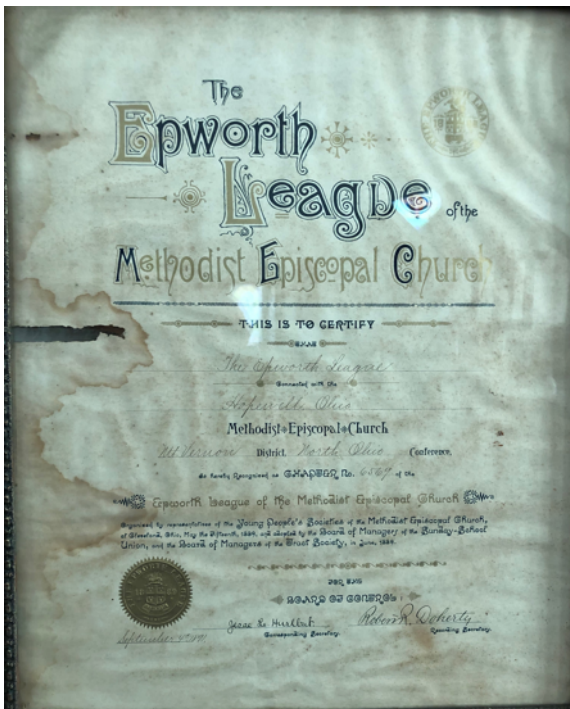


Richard Allen

Episcopal Church, South, to become The Methodist Church. In 1843, abolitionist preachers Orange Scott and Luther Lee formed the Wesleyan Methodist Church over Methodism's weakening prohibition against slaveholding.

Even with these tensions, Methodism spread to new cultures and overseas. African-American Methodist preacher, John Stewart, began an unauthorized mission to the Wyandot Indians in Ohio in 1815, which was adopted by the Ohio Conference in 1819. Another African-American preacher, Daniel Coker, who had been ordained by Asbury and participated in the organizing conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, was among the eighty-eight emigrants who sailed to Africa in 1820, assisted by the American Colonization Society. While still at sea he organized a church. The group landed in what is today Liberia. Missionary work in Africa was carried out mainly by lay people until 1833, when Melville Beveridge Cox became the first missionary of the Methodist Episcopal Church appointed to Liberia.

Other institutions also developed. By 1841, Methodists, Evangelicals, and United Brethren had all begun denominational missionary societies. Sunday schools were encouraged in every place where they could be started and maintained. Interest in education was also evident in the establishment of secondary schools and colleges. By 1845, each had instituted courses of study for their preachers to ensure that they had a basic knowledge of the Bible, theology, and pastoral ministry.



Early Youth Fellowship at HUMC

A framed certificate at the rear of the church sanctuary notes the beginning of a Hopewell youth group: Chapter 6569 of the Epworth League was recognized in September 4, 1891—128 years ago!

What else can be learned from the certificate?

- Epworth League, a national organization, was organized in a Cleveland church in 1889, just two years earlier. It existed until 1939 when Epworth League became Methodist Youth Fellowship.
- In 1891, Hopewell Methodist Episcopal Church was part of the Mt. Vernon District in the Northern Ohio Conference.

More information about the Epworth League may be found at

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epworth_League

At right – After church on August 18, HUMC members congregated at the Lawhon farm for brunch, relaxation, fellowship, fishing, and fun.

Three Simple Rules for Social Media

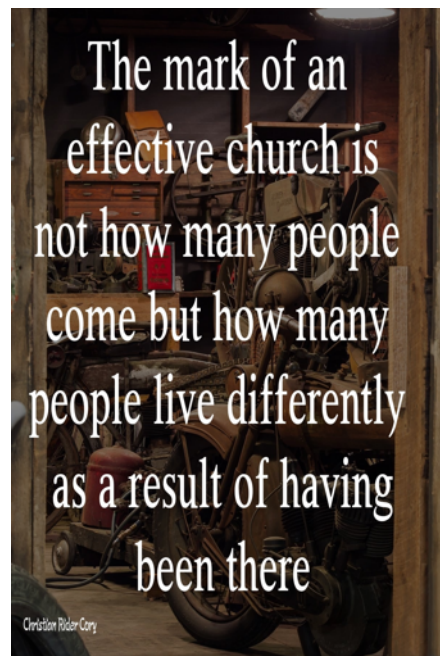
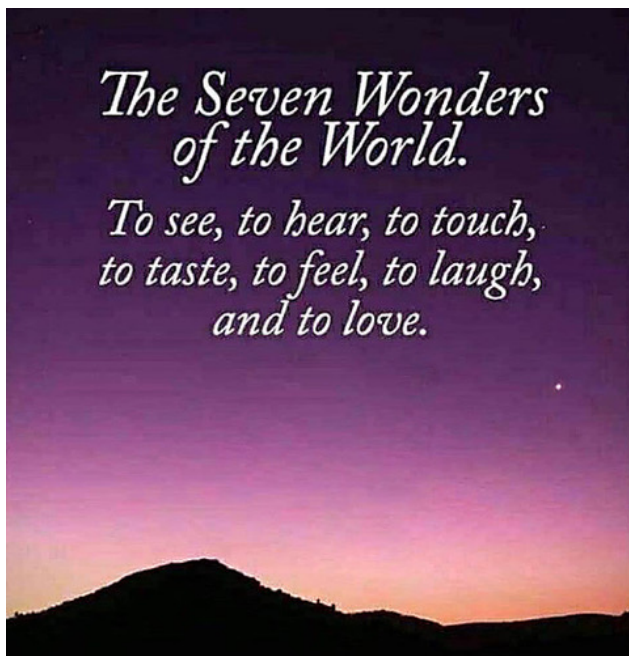
1. Do no harm.
2. Do good.
3. Stay in love with God.

--John Wesley





Pickles



October 2019

◀ Sep 2019

Nov 2019 ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
National Diabetes Month Seafood Month Adopt a Shelter Dog Month Clergy Appreciation Month		1 World Vegetarian Day B'day: Broden Burt	2 Name Your Car Day National Kale Day	3 Techies Day Virus Appreciation Day	4 National Golf Day World Smile Day	5 World Teacher's Day B'day: Shirley Hughes
6 Come and Take It Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Communion	7 Bald and Free Day B'day: Jade Laymon	8 American Touch Tag Day B'day: Ellie Purcell	9 Fire Prevention Day Emergency Nurses Day	10 National Angel Food Cake Day	11 It's My Party Day World Egg Day	12 Old Farmer's Day
13 Internat'l Skeptics Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Refreshments	14 Columbus Day National Dessert Day	15 White Cane Safety Day B'day: Silas Burt	16 Bosses Day National Fossil Day	17 National Pasta Day B'day: Pete Lawhon	18 No Beard Day B'day: Bev Lahmon	19 Evaluate Your Life Day B'day: Erika Kanuckel-Wolfe
20 Brandled Fruit Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship 4 PM Charge Conference at Utica UMC	21 Count Your Buttons Day B'day: Aubrey Purcell Campbell	22 National Nut Day B'day: Elaine Farie	23 TV Talk Show Host Day	24 United Nations Day	25 World Pasta Day	26 National Mincemeat Day
27 Make a Diffemece Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship	28 Plush Animal Lover's Day	29 Hermit Day	30 National Candy Com Day	31 Halloween		

November 2019

◀ Oct 2019

Dec 2019 ▶

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
National Epilepsy Month Aviation History Month Peanut Butter Lovers Month International Drum Month					1 All Saint's Day	2 All Soul's Day B'day: Sara Lawhon
3 Daylight Saving Time Ends 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Communion	4 King Tut Day	5 Election Day	6 Saxophone Day	7 Bittersweet Chocolate with Almonds Day	8 Cook Something Bold Day	9 Chaos Never Dies Day
10 USMC Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship/Refreshments B'day: Wendy Cedoz	11 Veterans Day	12 Young Readers Day Chicken Soup for the Soul Day	13 Sadie Hawkins Day B'day: Vitold Usclowski	14 Great American Smokeout Operating Room Nurse Day	15 America Recycles Day B'day: Sherry Dye	16 National Fast Food Day
17 Homemade Bread Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship B'day: Amelia Wells	18 Occult Day	19 Have a Bad Day Day	20 Beautiful Day	21 World Hello Day	22 Go for a Ride Day B'day: Gary Hughes	23 National Espresso Day B'day: David Holl
24 Evolution Day 8:30 Sunday School 9:30 Worship B'day: Todd Wells	25 National Parfait Day	26 Shopping Reminder Day	27 Pins & Needles Day	28 Thanksgiving Day	29 Black Friday Buy Nothing Day B'day: Bob Joseph	30

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



Calendar of Selected Events/Activities

Sunday, Oct 6	Communion Sunday; Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM; Bring food for Interchurch pantry;
Sunday, Oct 13	Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM; Refreshments
Sunday, Oct 20	Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM Charge Conference, 4 PM , Utica UM Church
Sunday, Oct 27	Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM
Sunday, Nov 3	<i>Daylight Savings Time ends</i> ; Communion Sunday; Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM; Bring food for Interchurch pantry
Sunday, Nov 10	Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM; Refreshments
Sunday, Nov 17, & 24	Sunday school, 8:30 AM; Worship, 9:30 AM